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FRONTISPIECE.

Publ'd Sept. 24. 1784 by R. S. Kirby London Horse Yard & 1. St. Pauls Church.

KIRBY'S
WONDERFUL
AND
SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM:
OR
MAGAZINE
OF
REMARKABLE CHARACTERS;

INCLUDING ALL THE
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FROM THE REMOTEST PERIOD TO THE PRESENT TIME,

Drawn from every authentic Source.

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VOL. II.

LONDON:

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J. SCOTT, 447, STRAND.

1804.

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ROTOR, LENOX AND
TILBEN FOUNDATIONS



(*W. Matthew Buchinger*)

The Wonderful Little Man of Nuremberg.

Pub^d by R. S. Kirby 21 London House Yard & I. Scott 447 Strand Jan 1 1804.

MR. MATTHEW BUCHINGER.

Having given the LIVES and PORTRAITS of several ORIGINAL CHARACTERS, in our FIRST VOLUME, which we have the satisfaction to find, has been most cordially received by the CURIOUS, and the LOVERS of ORIGINALITY; in pursuance of the same entertaining Plan, we commence our SECOND, with an Account and Portrait of the above; commonly called,

THE WONDERFUL LITTLE MAN OF NUREMBERG,
IN GERMANY.

MR. BUCHINGER was born June 2, 1674, without hands, feet, or thighs. He was the last of nine children, by one father and mother, viz. eight sons and one daughter; and after arriving at the age of maturity, from the singularity of his case, and the abilities he possessed, he attracted the attention not only of the Continent, but of this country also; the public at that time being anxious to obtain the likeness of a person, whose abilities seemed peculiarly original, and not less remarkable for his acquirements, than for the singular privations he laboured under, from the peculiarity of his formation.

To come to particulars, as to his capacity, it was remarked of him, by his cotemporaries, "that this little man performed such wonders as had never been done by any but himself. It was said, that he played on various sorts of music to admiration, as the strange nute in consort with the bagpipe, dulcimer and trumpet. He was likewise supposed to possess considerable abilities for the mechanics, having conceived the design of constructing machines to play on all sorts of music.

He was no less eminent for writing, drawing coats of arms, sketches, &c. with a pen; was an adept at cards and dice. He also performed tricks with cups and balls, corn, and living birds, and could play at skittles and nine-pins with great dexterity; with other particulars, not less surprising, in a person so mutilated by nature, as he appeared to be.—But among the most remarkable of his drawings, is his own portrait; and as an embellishment in the delineation of his wig, he most curiously contrived, that its curls should exhibit in several fairly written lines, the 27th, 121st, 128th, 130th, 140th, 149th, and the 150th Psalms, concluding with the Lord's Prayer. As another singularity in his domestic affairs, it is remarkable that he was married four times, and had eleven children; viz. one by his first wife, three by his second, six by his third, and one by his last.—His whole stature was no more than 29 inches in height; the portrait accompanying this description of his person, was copied from that drawn by himself.



Uncommon ELEVATION in a BALLOON, at Hamburgh.

MR. ROBERTSON, whose experiments we have before heard of, renewed his late attempts about the 7th of November. This balloon, constructed of taffety, was 30 feet in diameter, and was filled so as to carry a weight of 445 pounds. Mr. Robertson ascended with a friend, having ballast to the weight of 140 pounds. They continued rising till the barometer stood at 12 deg. and they were supposed to be 3,679 toises, or measures of 6 feet from the earth. No Aeronauts had ever ascended so high; nor did Mr. Robertson, or his friend, even think it possible.—But here they soon found, that the apathy, inactivity, and drowsiness that began to seize upon them was inexpressible. Their eyes were suffused with blood, their lips swelled, their veins distended, and their pulse beat uncommonly high. Their throats, in the next place, became affected;

affected ; and they found it very difficult to swallow. In fact, a degree of numbness and drowsiness, that must infallibly have brought on death, began to gain very fast upon them, so that if they had not taken the resolution of fastening a cord round their bodies, by which they could pull each other heartily ; and made use of some stimulants, which they applied, upon the principles of electricity and magnetism, they certainly must have perished. In the course of five hours they descended in the Hanoverian territory, 78 miles from the spot where they ascended. One of the birds they carried with them was dead, the other was unable to fly. When at the vast height from whence they descended, though they spoke to each other very loud, they could hear but with great difficulty. The sun was no longer of that dazzling brightness in which it appeared on the earth, being a fine day ; but all the whole circle of the heavens appeared of a most beautiful blue. Maugre these difficulties which Mr. Robertson met with, he proposed making another excursion, in order that he might enlarge his physical experiments.



A GALVANIC BATTERY AND INFLAMMABLE AIR-PISTOL.

WHILE the Philosophers of the Continent are busied with Galvanic experiments upon the dead, we are glad to find the subject occupying the attention of some gentlemen of science in this country, with a laudable view of applying the powers of this surprising principle to objects of general utility. The battery which Mr. Wilkinson, of Soho-square, has constructed, and by which he some evenings since made numerous curious experiments, exposes a surface of nearly 30,000 square inches, containing more than a ton weight of metal. Gold and silver, till lately considered as indistructible by fire, were, by Mr. Wilkinson, together with copper and tin, deflagrated with an uncommon brilliancy ;

a platina wire, 1-10th of an inch thick, was greatly distended, and fused with a globular form ; steel harpsichord wire was ignited, and fused into red-hot balls ; brass, copper, and silver, produced the same effect. On applying charcoal to the Galvanic apparatus, the most intensely brilliant light ensued, so luminous in fact, that the blaze of a patent lamp exposed to it, was so far eclipsed as to be scarcely distinguishable ; the light continued about ten minutes, and the luminous extremities of the charcoal produced a most beautiful radiation, rendering every part of a large room, previously darkened, as light as if exposed to an unclouded sun. The inflammable air-pistol was, for the first time, fired by Galvanism. Mr. Wilkinson, among some interesting observations on the influence of Galvanism, in the important science of Magnetism, remarked, that the polarity of any metallic substance, as lately mentioned by a continental Philosopher, did not appear correct. With steel and iron needles he had frequently magnetised by Galvanism.

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#### TO THE EDITOR.

"SIR,—If the following Miscellaneous Articles are any way useful to you, to be inserted in the Number commencing the Second Volume of your truly Entertaining Magazine, they are wholly at your service ; and by complying, will, at the same time, greatly oblige your occasional Correspondent,

*Nottingham, Dec. 1<sup>st</sup>, 1803.*

D. B. L."

#### BRUTALITY IN ITS PURITY.

A FARMER, on Friday evening, January 9th, 1795, sitting among a small circle of his neighbours, fuddling their noses over a large fire and a full tankard, in order to prove the degree of subjection and command he had over a fine young mastiff (then lying before the fire), took a large blazing coal and applied it to the belly of the animal ; at the same time ordering him to lie still, which the poor creature actually did, until his entrails had nearly appeared ; when



#### REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF SAGACITY IN DOGS. 5

when extreme torture forcing him to fly, his *tender-hearted* master, as a reward for his fidelity, took a gun and immediately shot him. The scene where this singular act of *humanity* took place, was at the Robinhood public-house, near Helsby, in the county of Chester. The authenticity of which, many of the inhabitants of that place can testify.



#### TWO REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF SAGACITY IN DOGS.

IN the latter end of the month of February 1795, as Mr. Boustead's son, of Great Salkeld, Westmoreland, was shepherding upon Great Salkeld Common, he had the misfortune to fall and break his leg. He was then at the distance of three miles from home, no person within call, and evening fast approaching. Besides the anguish he was suffering from the fracture, how dreadful must his feelings have been, from the accumulated distress of his situation. At a moment when distraction was likely to overcome the powers of reason and reflection, Providence directed him to the following expedient :—He folded one of his gloves in his handkerchief, which he tied round the neck of the dog, and ordered him home. The dogs which are trained to an attendance on the flock, are known to be under admirable subjection to the commands of their masters. The animal instantly set off, arriving at the house, scratched at the door for admittance. The young man's parents were alarmed at his appearance, and more especially when they took off and unfolded the handkerchief ; concluding, beyond a doubt, that some accident had befallen their son, they instantly went in search of him. The dog needed no instruction, apparently sensible that the chief part of his duty was yet to be performed, he led the way, and conducted the anxious parent to the spot where their son laid ! Happily this was effected before night had set in ; the young man was brought home, and the necessary aid procured ;

## 6 REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF FECUNDITY, &c.

cured; and he shortly after recovered. A writer of no small eminence, says, "There is a moral obligation between a man and a dog:" in the present instance, that obligation is very strong, indeed. The shepherd owes his release, from a situation the most dreadful that can be conceived, to the wonderful sagacity of a faithful dog.

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IN the month of June 1800, as Mr. J. Seaman, of Rupert-street, was going from the Hay-market to Bond-street, he fell down in a fit; a crowd of people soon collected: but a Newfoundland dog, belonging to Mr. Seaman, kept them at a distance from him, thereby promoting his recovery, by the admission of air, and preserving a large sum of money which he had in his pockets; and of which, it is probable, he had otherwise been deprived. This dog, about two years preceding the above time, saved his master's life at Portsmouth, when he fell into the harbour; and, but for the exertions of this animal, must have been drowned.

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### *Three remarkable Instances of FECUNDITY in different ANIMALS.*

A SINGULAR instance of which was proved in the Viper, on Monday, August 16, 1791, by George Dickinson, a Labourer, at Edwinstowe, in the county of Nottingham; he being at work in a rushy meadow, observed a female viper basking in the sun, upon an old bank. He took up a rail and killed her; when seeing the belly uncommonly large for that species of serpent, he opened her down from the jaw to the tail, with the point of his scythe; when there came out 18 young vipers, in full vigour, and snapped at the scythe with the greatest avidity; and most of them measured eight inches in length: the old viper was two feet eight inches in length.

AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE IN SURGERY, &c. 7

An EWE belonging to J. Horton, Esq. of Elliot's-Hall, in Warwickshire, which brought three lambs in 1800, and four in 1801; and on the 3d of March 1802, yeaned five, all alive.

In the month of July of the present year, a Sow belonging to Mr. Porter, of Marham, Lincolnshire, had a litter of 25 pigs, all alive; 18 of which were living a fortnight after.



AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE IN SURGERY,

HAPPENED in February 1796, in the county of Meath-Hospital, on the Coomb:—A woman of the name of Sarah Dillon, who had been pregnant for two years and two months, underwent the *Cæsarean* operation, and had a full-grown child extracted, which had not the least appearance of putrefaction. The woman was shortly after discharged from the Hospital perfectly healed and well.



*Singular Instance of SHELLS being found under a solid*  
STRATUM of Rock.

IN working a stone-quarry, in 1795, belonging to Lord Ducie, on the road leading from Tedbury to Bath, the remains of a large tree, supposed to be oak, was discovered 15 feet from the surface of the ground, and under a solid stratum of rock, several feet thick. Near the tree, which was of a considerable size, and measured in length 20 feet, (lying in a South-East direction,) an oyster, and some other shells were found. This is one of the singular occurrences which confound philosophy, and demonstrate the superficialness of human conception.



REMARKABLE AURORA BOREALIS.

ABOUT eight o'clock on Thursday night, the 21st of October 1794, a remarkable Aurora Borealis was seen,  
near

### 8 REMARKABLE HISTORY OF A CANADA GOOSE.

near Mansfield, in the county of Nottingham ; its appearance was that of a white steady light, without any of those shooting streams of the electric fluid, which are always seen in the common Aurora Borealis ; it seemed to extend from N. E. to S. W. and where it was observed from a high situation, it formed the segment of a large circle. There had been a little frost in the morning, the day was fine, and the evening perfectly clear.—The wind N. W. ; barometer 30 deg. and thermometer 47 deg.

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A **PIG** of **LEAD**, 2 feet long, 7 inches thick at top, 3½ inches at bottom, and 185 pounds weight, was found in the year 1795, at Snelbitch, in Shropshire, with the inscription, “ J. M. P. Hadriani A. V. C. ; ” supposed to have lain there since the reign of Adrian the Emperor, who died in the year 139, being 1657 years ago, from the time of being found.

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### REMARKABLE HISTORY OF A CANADA GOOSE.

The following Story is extremely well attested, and furnishes a very curious Article in Natural History.

**T**HE following account of a Canada Goose, is so extraordinary, that I am aware, it would, with difficulty, gain credit ; was not a whole parish able to vouch for the truth of it.

The Canada Geese are not fond of a poultry-yard, but are rather of a rambling disposition : one of these birds was, however, observed to attach itself in the strongest and most affectionate manner to the house-dog ; would never quit the kennel, except for the purpose of feeding, when it would return again immediately. It always sat by the dog, but never presumed to go into the kennel, except in rainy weather ; whenever the dog barked, the goose would cackle and run at the person she supposed the dog barked at, and try to bite them by the heels. Sometimes she would attempt

attempt to feed with the dog : but this the dog, who rather treated his faithful companion with indifference, would not suffer.

This bird would not go to roost with the others at night, unless driven by main force ; and, when in the morning, she is turned in the field, she would never stir from the yard-gate, but sit there the whole day in sight of the dog. At last orders were given that she should not be molested, but suffered to accompany the dog as she liked : being thus left to herself, she ran about with him all night, and what is particularly extraordinary, and can be attested by the whole parish, that whenever the dog went out of the yard, and ran into the village, the goose always accompanied him, contriving to keep up with by the use of her wings ; and in this way of running and flying, followed him all over the parish.

This extraordinary affection of the goose towards the dog, which continued till his death, two years after it was first observed, is supposed to have originated from his having saved her from a fox, in the very moment of distress. While the dog was ill, the goose never quitted him, day nor night, not even to feed ; and it was apprehended she would have been starved to death, had not the orders been given for a pan of corn to be set every day close to the kennel. At this time the goose generally sat inside the kennel, and would not let any approach, unless it was the person that brought the dog's or her own food.

The end of this faithful bird was melancholy : for when the dog died, she would still keep possession of the kennel ; and a new house-dog being introduced, which in size and colour resembled that lately lost, the poor goose was unhappily deceived, and going into the kennel, the new inhabitant seized her by the throat and killed her.

A similar affection was observed between a cat and a pigeon, some years ago, at the house of the late Robert James, Esq. of Putney ; with this difference, that it ap-  
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 peared

peared to be reciprocal.—What rendered it more extraordinary was, that they were both found one day on the wall of the garden, and both became domesticated at Mr. James's, where they continued to be inseparable companions.

CAROLUS.

FROM HUTTON'S HISTORY OF DERBY.

“ A REGIMENT of troopers in 1647, in the Parliament service, marching over St. Mary's bridge, in their way to Nottingham, observed a girl of 15 years of age, a few yards below the bridge, lading water into her pail, while standing upon a *BATING LAG*, (beating log, upon which the dyer stands to beat his cloth) ; some soldiery jokes ensued, when one of them dismounted and cast a large stone, with a design to splash her ; but not being versed in directing a stone so well as a bullet, he missed the water, and broke her head. Alarmed at this unexpected result of his rude attack, he hastened to the front of the regiment, to avoid the consequence: Thus, the man who had boldly faced the enemy in the field, fled with fear from an helpless female. Nothing disarms like offered injuries. She instantly, with tears and cries, left her pail, went home, when her mother was frightened to behold her covered with blood. The unknown consequences of this adventure, hung heavy upon the trooper's mind : he rode in the regiment eleven years after.—When discharged, the world was all before him, where to chuse, he fixed on Derby ; followed his occupation, courted and married a young woman. In the course of their conversations, he proved to be the very man that cast the stone, and she the woman with a broken head. They lived in Bridge-Gate, and in harmony about thirty years : during that period, they produced ten children, the eldest of whom was my grandfather (*the Author*).—His sword, in my possession, was drawn for liberty, at Marston Moor, under the Earl of Manchester ; at Naseby, under Fairfax ; and at Worcester, under Cromwell ; and was carried in pursuit of the unfortunate Charles, to Boscobel.”

*The*

*The HISTORY of the FAMOUS BOTTLE CONJUROR, in the Year 1748—9, (now for the first Time collected); being the Advertisements, &c. &c. that appeared in all the public Papers of that Period, relative to that entertaining and extraordinary Imposition.*

JANUARY 12, 1749.—At the New Theatre in the Hay-market, on Monday next, the 16th instant, is to be seen, a person who performs the several most surprising things following; viz.—1st, He takes a common walking cane from any of the spectators, and thereon plays the music of every instrument now in use, and likewise sings to surprising perfection; 2dly, He presents you with a common wine bottle, which any of the spectators may first examine; this bottle is placed on a table in the middle of the stage, and he (without any equivocation) goes into it, in the sight of all the spectators, and sings in it; during his stay in the bottle, any person may handle it, and see plainly that it does not exceed a common tavern bottle.—Those on the stage, or in the boxes, may come in masked habits (if agreeable to them); and the performer, if desired, will inform them who they are.—Stage, 7s. 6d. Boxes, 5s. Pit, 3s. Gallery, 2s. Tickets to be had at the Theatre:—To begin at half an hour after six o'clock. The performance continues about two hours and a half.

*Note,* If any gentlemen or ladies (after the above performance), either single or in company, in or out of mask, is desirous of seeing a representation of any deceased person, such as husband or wife, sister or brother, or any intimate friend of either sex, upon making a gratuity to the performer, shall be gratified by seeing and conversing with them for some minutes, as if alive; likewise, if desired, he will tell you your most secret thoughts in your past life, and give you a full view of persons who have injured you, whether dead or alive. For those gentlemen

and ladies who are desirous of seeing this last part, there is a private room provided.

These performances have been seen by most of the crowned heads of Asia, Africa, and Europe, and never appeared public any where but once ; but will wait on any at their houses, and perform as above, for five pounds each time. A proper guard is appointed to prevent any disorder.

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The following is an account of the performance, as published in one of the newspapers the following day :—  
January 13.—Last night the much-expected Drama of the Bottle-Conjuror of the New Theatre in the Hay-market, ended in the tragic-comical manner following. Curiosity had drawn together prodigious numbers. About seven, the Theatre being lighted up, but without so much as a single fiddle to keep the audience in a good humour, many grew impatient. Immediately followed a chorus of catcalls, heightened by loud vociferations and beating with sticks ; when a fellow came from behind the curtain, and bowing, said, that if the performer did not appear, the money should be returned. At the same time, a wag crying out from the pit, that if the ladies and gentlemen would give double prices, the Conjuror would get into a pint bottle ; presently a young gentleman in one of the boxes seized a lighted candle, and threw it on the stage. This served as the charge for sounding to battle. Upon this the greatest part of the audience made the best of their way out of the Theatre, some losing a cloak, others a hat, others a wig, and others hat, wig, and swords also. One party, however, stayed in the House, in order to demolish the inside ; when the mob breaking in, they tore up the benches, broke to pieces the scenes, pulled down the boxes, in short dismantled the Theatre entirely, carrying away the particulars above mentioned into the street, where they made a mighty bonfire ; the curtain being hoisted on a pole by way of flag. A large party



party of the guards were sent for, but came time enough only to warm themselves by the fire. We hear of no other disaster than a young nobleman's chin being hurt, occasioned by his fall into the pit, with part of one of the boxes, which he had forced out with his foot. It is thought the Conjuror vanished away with the money, &c.

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Another account says ;—January 13,—Last night there was a very numerous and polite modern company of *choice spirits*, to see the extraordinary performances of the Hay-market Conjuror. When the time was elapsed, according to his conjuring advertisement, a great uproar was made ; when one of the conjuring tribe appeared on the stage, and made a speech ; declaring, among other things of equal importance, that if the gentleman did not appear in a quarter of an hour, they should have their money returned : but, to the great surprize of the company, their money was conjured away, without any other performance. Immediately a great confusion ensued ; the benches were torn up, bonfires were made of them ; and happy were they who got off safe with their watches, &c. It was reported, that a great General * lost his sword in the quarrel ; *cum multis aliis*.

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January 13.—Lost, last Monday night, at the Little Play-house in the Hay-market, a Sword, with a gold hilt and cutting blade, with a crimson and gold sword-knot tied round the hilt. Whoever brings it to Mrs. Chevenix's Toy Shop, over-against Great Suffolk-street, near Charing-cross, shall receive 30 guineas reward, and no questions asked.

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Which was answered by the following Advertisement :

January 18.—Found entangled in the slit of a lady's demolished smock-petticoat, a Gold hilted Sword, of martial length and temper, nothing worse for wear, with the *spey* curiously wrought on one side of the blade, and the

(* The Duke of Cumberland was there.)

scheld

scheld on the other ; supposed to have been stolen from the plump side of a great General, in his precipitate retreat from the Battle of Bottle Noodles, at Station Foot. Enquire at the Quart Bottle and Musical Cane, in Potter's-row.

N. B. Every word of a certain late advertisement is true, except all the advertisement.

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January 18.—To the Public.—As I am accused of being accessary to the cheat imposed upon the town, on Monday night, in the Hay-market, I hope the Public will pardon, as my reputation and interest are so essentially engaged, my taking this method to acquit myself of the least concern in that transaction. Mr. Potter, the Proprietor of the Play-house, sent me word last week, that the Theatre was engaged for Monday night ; for what purpose, the Public were informed in the next day's Advertiser.

On Monday morning I called upon Mr. Lewis, who is Attorney to Mr. Potter, and has the direction of the House in his absence ; I gave him my opinion, that a fraud on the Public was intended ; and advised him, on no account, to open his doors. His answer was, that if the man complied with his agreement, the doors must be opened. I then desired him not to suffer, on any pretence, the man himself, or any of his confederates, to receive a shilling ; but to appoint a treasurer of his own, who might, if the audience were either disappointed or displeased, return them their money. This advice he took. I, in confidence of his promise, told a gentleman near me in the Boxes, who was clamorous for his money, the measures I had taken for his security. This is all that I know of the affair ; and to Mr. Lewis, I appeal for the truth of it in every circumstance.

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SAM. FOOTE.

January 19.—To the Public.—Whereas I read an advertisement in this Paper yesterday, signed *Sam. Foote*, wherein
he

he makes use of Mr. Lewis's name ; in answer to which I think it incumbent on me to declare, that Mr. Lewis neither lett, or had any concern whatsoever, directly or indirectly, in letting, or advising about letting my Theatre on Monday last.

~~~~~ JOHN POTTER.

January 19.—To the Public.—All the facts related in Mr. Foote's advertisement of yesterday, are true, except that the conversation was with Mr. Lewis's Clerk, who is Nephew to Mr. Potter, and transacted the business of the Theatre for Mr. Potter ; and not Mr. Lewis, as by mistake was inserted.

~~~~~ SAM. FOOTE.

From Mr. JOHN POTTER, the Proprietor of the New Theatre in the Hay-market.

As the resentment of the town for the disappointment of the performance advertised to be exhibited in my Theatre, on Monday last, falls entirely upon me, I hope I may be allowed to acquaint the Public with the nature of my case.

It is never yet been expected, (nor I presume is it reasonable) that I should answer for the misbehaviour of any person that takes my House, nor did I ever think any thing (in that respect) incumbent on me, more than to caution the persons who took it, against acting contrary to the laws in being, and to acquaint them with the consequences thereof ; which I have always done. But in this particular case, as the performance proposed was so very extraordinary, I was under some apprehension of an imposition, and therefore insisted, that there should be a person of my own appointment in the Office ; and in case there should be no performance, or that there should appear any notorious equivocation in it, that the money should be returned ; all which the person readily consented to. And as he paid the rent of the house, and must consequently be at some other necessary expences before the doors would be opened, I was thereby strongly induced to believe, that he intended no real imposition, but that something (of that kind) would be

he exhibited to the satisfaction of the spectators. All the caution above mentioned was taken, and the money locked up in the Office, guarded by persons of reputation, who would have returned it; and publicly on the stage told them, that if the person did not appear, their money should be returned. But instead of accepting of that offer, my house was pulled down, the Office broke open, the money taken out, and the servants obliged to fly to save their lives. I hope, therefore, this may be deemed a sufficient justification in my behalf, and all that could be reasonably expected of me; and that those gentlemen who are conscious of having injured me, will be so generous as to make me a reasonable satisfaction, considering the damage I have suffered; which, which on a moderate computation, will amount to upwards of £400.

JOHN POTTER.

Note. The person who took the House, was a man of genteel appearance, said his name was William Nicholls, and directed letters to be left for him at the Bedford Coffee-house, Covent-garden.

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January 20.—Whereas a Letter signed S. M.; dated the 18th inst. was sent yesterday by the Penny Post, directed to Mr. Potter, in the Hay-market; which, by the contents, seems to come from the person who took Mr. Potter's Theatre for Monday last; wherein he complains of much ill usage, and insists that the man can perform the things he advertised, and would have performed them, and was actually in a coach in order to come, but was intimidated by two gentlemen who came from the Gun Tavern, who told him he would be taken up if he performed: And in his letter he threatens, that in case Mr. Potter will not give him £22, which he says he was out of pocket, that he will apply to some Court of Law or Equity, for justice: He also desires an answer in this paper.—In answer to which, S. M. is desired to appear personally, and  
to

to give an account of his name and place of abode ; and he shall have such satisfaction as in justice he deserves.

~~~~~ JOHN POTTER.

Jan. 20.—Whereas the Public was on Monday last basely abused by an impostor, who pretended to perform what was impracticable, at the Theatre in the Hay-market ; the same imposition some evil-minded villains imagined John Coustos, Lapidary, to be the author of: this is to assure the Public, that the said John Coustos had never such design, nor ever hired, or caused to be hired, the House on any occasion whatever ; and to caution those his enemies, who are the authors of this report, not to assert a thing which they know to be a gross falsity : And there are those, who are ready to attest on oath, that he was in their company that evening, and was at the Theatre as a spectator only.

~~~~~ JOHN COUSTOS:

*The following Advertisement was inserted; assigning the reason why the Bottle Conjuror did not perform.*

Whereas various stories have been told the Public, about the Man and the Bottle, the following account seems to be the best as yet given of that odd affair ; viz. A gentleman went to him the same evening he was to perform in the Hay-market, and asking him what he must have to perform to him in private, he said £5, on which they agreed, and the Conjuror getting ready to go into the bottle, which was set on a table, the gentleman having provided a parcel of corks, fitted one to the bottle ; then the Conjuror having darkened the room as much as was necessary, at last with much squeezing got into the bottle, which, in a moment, the gentleman corked up, and whipt into his pocket, and in great haste and seeming confusion, went out of the house, telling the servants who waited at the door, that their master had bewitched him, and bid them go in and take care of him. Thus, the poor man bit himself, in being confined in the bottle, and in a gentleman's

to

pocket,

pocket, could not be in another place ; for he never advertised he would go into two bottles at one and the same time. He is still in the gentleman's custody, who uncorks him now and then to feed him, and to let in some fresh air to him ; but his long confinement has so damp't his spirits, that instead of singing and dancing, he is perpetually crying, and cursing his ill fate. But though the town have been disappointed of seeing him go into the bottle, in a few days they will have the pleasure of seeing him come out of the bottle ; of which timely notice will be given in the daily papers.

*This Day is published, (price Six-pence,)*

A Letter to the Town, concerning the *Man and the Bottle*.—Printed for W. Reeves, in Fleet-street ; and A. Dodd, opposite St. Clement's Church in the Strand.

*This Day are published, (price Six-pence,)*

The Bottled Heroes ; or, Madness and Folly A-la-mode. Humbly inscribed to Mr. H—g—h, and Mr. G——k. With a humorous Copper-plate Head-piece. By Anglicanus, M. D. To be had, by the Author's appointment, of T. Ewart, Publisher, facing Slaughter's Coffee-house, St. Martin's-lane ; P. Griffin, in Fleet-street ; and all shops in Town and Country.

*Jan. 30 ---This Day at Noon will be published, (price 6d. plain ; 1s. coloured,)*

English Credulity ; or, Ye're all bottled :—A humorous Print. Exactly representing the particular Characters that attended at the Hay-market Theatre ; together with their different requests, according to their several stations, to converse with the Inhabitants of the Lower Regions ; viz. the Soldier, Engineer, Parson, Physician, Fop, Sailor, Fille de Joye, &c. To which is annexed, a Poem, properly adapted to the subject.—Printed for B. Dickinson, the corner of the Bell-Savage Inn, Ludgate-hill.

*Note,* All the Bottle Prints that have been published, are by this Print out-bottled.

*Just*

*Just published, (price 8 x-pence,)*

**A Modest Apology for the Man in the Bottle.** By Himself:—Being a full Answer to all that ever was, or ever will be said on that important occasion. Containing amongst other curiosities, a particular account of the Scheme; some Sketches of a late Minister; the Year 1720, with the S. S. Directors; a Dialogue between Mordecai and a Christian, on Foreign Loans; the Bottlemans Name, what, and who the greatest Impostors, and why? the Blind lead the Blind; Foreigners most encouraged; the Bottlemans not the Aggressor; Miracles proved ever since the Revolution, &c.—*Ridentem dice e Verum.*—Printed for J. Freeman, near St. Paul's; and sold by the Booksellers in London and Westminster,

*Feb. 8.—This Day at Noon will be published, (price Six-pence,)*

**An Apology to the Town, for Himself and the Bottle.** By J. Nick-all. N. B. Mr. P—— was mistaken in the name. To which is prefixed, an exact Representation of the Scene of Harlequin's Escape into the Bottle, introduced in the Pantomime Entertainment of Apollo and Daphne, or the Burgo-Master tricked;—the Character of Harlequin, by Mr. Phillips.—Printed for B. Dickinson, the corner of Bell Savage Inn, Ludgate-hill,

*Feb. 25.—This Day is published, (price 6d. plain; 1s. coloured), a comical Print of*

**The Bottle Conjuror's reflecting Mirror: or, One Fool makes many, from the Head to Foot, without Equivocation.**—Sold in May's Buildings, Covent Garden. Where may be had, **The Wheel-barrow Cries of Europe.**

**Apollo and Daphne; or, the Burgo-Master tricked.** In which will be introduced, an additional Scene of the Escape of Harlequin into a Quart Bottle.—Boxes, 5s. Pit, 3s. First Gallery, 2s. Upper Gallery, 1s. To begin exactly at six o'clock.

Apollo and Daphne ; or, the Burgo-Master tricked. In which will be introduced the Escape of Harlequin into a Quart Bottle. Also Don Jumpedo (*though not the original*) will jump down his own throat ; and (as a new addition) afterwards jump up again !—Boxes, 5s. Pit, 3s. First Gallery, 2s. Upper Gallery, 1s.—Tickets delivered out for this night will be taken. Places for the Boxes to be taken of Mr. Page, at the Stage Door.—To-morrow will be presented, the Careless Husband ; for the Benefit of Mr. Leveridge.

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Lately arrived from Italy,

Sig. CAPITELLO JUMPEDO, a surprising Dwarf, no taller than a *common Tavern Tobacco Pipe* ; who can perform many wonderful Equilibres on the Slack or Tight Rope : likewise he will transform his Body in above ten thousand different Shapes and Postures ; and after he has diverted the spectators two hours and a half, he will *open his Mouth wide, and jump down his own Throat* ! He being the most wonderfulest wonder of wonders, as ever the world wondered at, would be willing to join in performance with that surprising Musician, on Monday next, in the Hay-market. He is to be spoke with at the Black Raven in Golden-lane, every day from seven till twelve, and from two to all day long.

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*Lately arrived from Ethiopia,*

The most wonderful and surprising Doctor BENIMBE ZAMMAMPOANGO, Oculist and Body Surgeon to the Emperor of Monœmungi, who will perform on Sunday next, at the Little P— in the Hay-market, the following surprising operations ; viz. 1st, He desires any one of the spectators only to pull out his own eyes, which as soon as he has done, the Doctor will shew them to any lady or gentleman then present, to convince them there is no cheat, and then replace them in the sockets as perfect and entire as ever. 2dly, He desires any officer or other, to rip up  
his



his own belly, which when he has done, he (without any equivocation) takes out his bowels, washes them, and returns them to their place, without the person's suffering the least hurt. 3dly, He opens the head of a J— of P—, takes out his Brains, and exchanges them for those of a Calf; the Brains of a Beau, for those of an Ass; and the Heart of a Bully, for those of a Sheep; which operations render the Persons more sociable and rational Creatures, than they ever were in their lives. And to convince the town that no imposition is intended, he desires no money until the performance is over. Boxes, 5 guin. Pit, 3. Gallery, 2.

N. B. The famous Oculist will be there, and honest S— F— H— will come if he can. Ladies may come masked, so may Fribbles. The Faculty and Clergy gratis. The Orator would be there, but is engaged.

January 27, 1748—9.—DON JOHN DE NASAQUITINE, sworn Brother and Companion to the Man that was to have jumped into the Bottle at the Little Theatre in the Hay-market, on Monday the 16th past; hereby invites all such as were then disappointed, to repair to the Theatre aforesaid, on Monday the 30th; and that shall be exhibited unto them, which never was heretofore, nor ever will be hereafter seen. All such as shall swear upon the Book of Wisdom, that they paid for seeing the Bottle-Man, will be admitted gratis; the rest at Gotham prices.

*This is to inform the Public,*

That notwithstanding the great abuse that has been put upon the Gentry, there is now in Town a Man, who, instead of creeping into a Quart or Pint Bottle, will change himself into a Rattle; which he hopes will please both young and old. If this Person meets with Encouragement to this Advertisement, he will then acquaint the Gentry where and when he performs.

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But notwithstanding all this exercise of wit and humour upon the credulity of the times, it seems, a Foreigner still thought there was some room left for a further trial; he therefore published the following advertisement very soon after, and which we insert, that nothing might be wanting to shew the extent of some people's efforts, then to avail themselves of the general disposition of the day.

*To be seen, at Mr. LEADER's, the Old Horse-shoe, in Wood-street, Cheapside, from Nine till Twelve, and from Four to Seven o'Clock, lately brought from France,*

A full-grown Mouse alive, confined in a small two-ounce Phial, the neck of which is not a quarter of an inch diameter. This amazing Creature hath lived in the Phial three Years and a half without drink, or any sustenance, but bread only. It cleans out its little habitation, and hath many other pretty actions, as surprising as agreeable; but particularly creates wonderful diversion with a Fly, and is allowed to be an extraordinary curiosity, never before seen in England; at the expence of 6d. each Person.

*Note, Gentlemen or Ladies who don't chuse to come, it shall be carried to them, by sending a line to Mr. LEADER.*

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*A SKELETON of the MAMMOTH, found in Essex,
October 1803.*

By the falling down of a piece of the cliff, on Walton shore, near Harwich, the skeleton of an enormous animal was discovered, measuring nearly 30 feet in length.—Some of the bones were nearly as large as a man's body, and six or seven feet long; the cavities which contained the marrow, were large enough to admit the introduction of a man's arm; the bones, on being handled, broke to pieces. One of the molar teeth was carried to Colchester, by Mr. W. Jackson, who took it from the spot, in whose possession it now is; it weighs seven pounds, is of a square form, and grinding surface is studded with several zig-zag rows of lamina, which seems to denote that it belonged to
a car.

a carnivorous animal.—There were more teeth, which were unfortunately broken, one of which weighed twelve pounds. It is probable that the tusks will be found, by searching further into the cliff, or amongst the earth which has fallen down. The above skeleton is supposed to belong to an animal of the same species as that called the Mammoth; the remains of which have been found in North America, Great Tartary, &c. ~~~~~

DREADFUL INUNDATION AT MADEIRA.

Madeira, 15th Oct.

THE weather had continued fine with us till the end of September. The wind then changed to the Southward and Westward, attended with much rain. On the 2d October, the major part of the vessels were obliged to put to sea. The weather continued bad, with occasionally fair intervals, till the 9th. On the morning of that day I took a walk up to a place in the neighbourhood, and returned about eleven o'clock.—Up to that hour, scarce any rain had fallen; but it then came on violently, and rained incessantly for the remainder of the day. While it was light, no accident happened; but, in the course of the night, the rivers swelled prodigiously, overwhelming in their progress a considerable part of the town.

The river of St. John's, after destroying every thing in its course, carried away the upper bridge at St. Paul's, and rose to such a height, as to throw down the Cypress tree at the church, carrying away the travendas as far up as Capm. Memuel Henriquez's house on the ascent from the bridge. Luckily the bridge at the Beco das Arenhas escaped.—About thirty persons are supposed to have lost their lives by the overflowing of this river, which carried out such an immense quantity of stones to sea, as to form a sort of bay for boats to the Westward of the Trantes, and sheltered from the wind in that direction. A remarkable circumstance happened on this river. In flying from one of the falling houses,

houses, a maid-servant dropped an infant from her arms; which was supposed to have perished. Next day, however, it was found unhurt, on a dry piece of ground, along with a lap-dog belonging to the same family. The dog was close by the child, and it is imagined that the child was kept alive by the warmth of the animal's body. The river of St. Lucia, or the Praca, came down with the utmost violence. At a small quinta, or country-house, near the Dean's, Mad. Lucia Vulpa and eight persons were drowned; the current of the river proceeded with the utmost impetuosity, fortunately, however, leaving the buildings standing at Pombal and Porto Nova. The Valle Verde, the bridge at the Recedas Ferrieres, were swept away with the greatest violence. From thence it rolled with increased impetuosity, sweeping away in its course the whole of the streets. Tinocnos Piquina, the back part of the houses on the West-side of the Rua Directa were destroyed, and the stream, after carrying away the Ponte da Piaca, a great part of Mr. Cock's, and several other adjacent houses, dis-embogued itself into the sea by its old channel.

A new channel was formed close by Mr. James Gordon's house at the Piaca. The number of persons who perished here cannot be accurately ascertained. Among the persons of most note, were the family of Jere Ignacio de Sorias, consisting of eighteen persons, of whom only one was saved. Rilta, Foster's relation, who, a short time ago, had been married to his son, also perished. Her body was afterwards found at the Varadoveres, buried amidst the boats, with all her trinkets and other valuable articles in her pockets. The Morgada de Palhas's daughter also fell a victim, and many other individuals. A boat laden with wine from Machito, with ten men on board, anchored off the Piaca, and was never seen after dark. It was of course destroyed with the crew and cargo.

The river of Joao Gomes distended with, if possible, still greater

greater violence, carrying with it stones of an immense size. A little way above the bridge, near the Roxenha, it broke through the town-wall on the right, carrying with it every thing till it joined the main branch ; which keeping to the left, swelled to such a degree, as to level the parapets of the bridge and the sides of the road several feet above it, in the direction of Manoel de Santeago's house, though the arch of the bridge did not give way. It then carried away almost the whole of the street Des Panguinos, not long since built ; the wall keeping off the water almost the whole length of the Hospital Velpo, and from the Church of Nra. Saçra Calhor, except the Tower, and Pedro Mendanca's new granaries and stores. The bridge afterwards giving way, a house built by him some years since, and occupied by Mr. Tatlock's family, was overwhelmed, and every one of the family perished. A part of the fort and all the adjoining small houses were either carried away or greatly damaged. The Rebecenho swelled prodigiously, and joining the former river, contributed to increase the mischief, though its bridge stood. The bridge over the river Gencalo Ayres was partly destroyed, and rendered impassable. The villages of Santa Cruz and Machico were more than half swept away. At the former, three or four, and at the latter, 23 persons perished. Cristeras de Embdos's house was carried away. Other accidents of the same kind happened in other quarters ; and though it is impossible to form an accurate estimate, I think I may safely say, that two hundred persons at least have lost their lives in the island.

The British that perished, are Mr. and Miss Tatlock, Mr. and Mrs. Morris and child, and Mr. Richard Sealy. The effects of this disaster were extended to the North-East parts of the island, but to the Westward, they were not much felt beyond Magdalena. Betwixt that place and Funchal the rivers did much damage, but only nine persons were

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drowned.

drowned. The Friary at Serros de Deos was carried away, but the Church stood. It will require many years, and all the attention of our Government, to repair so dreadful a calamity.—Another account from Funchal, in the island of Madeira, dated October 15th, says;—"By eight o'clock in the evening, the three rivers which pass through the city, had increased far beyond what was ever known, and made a most tremendous noise, with vast stones continually collecting, and coming down rapidly with them. Four of the bridges out of seven in the town, gave way nearly at the same time with a dreadful crash. A Church, with whole streets and rows of houses, exclusively of many detached buildings, were almost instantaneously swept away or laid in ruins, with whole families, and all their property and effects. The destruction has been dreadful, and the loss of lives estimated at 500 in the town and its vicinity. It appears by the accounts from the different parts of the island, that this calamity has been general, and about the same time, though the extent of the damage is not yet correctly ascertained."

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A SINGULAR DISPOSITION *for* BLEEDING, *inherent in*  
*several Families.*

[Related by Dr. Otto, of Philadelphia.]

DR. RUSH, says this author, has informed me, he has been consulted twice in the course of his practice upon this disease. The first time by a family in York, and the second by one in Northamptonshire, in this State. He likewise favoured me with the following account, which he received some years since, from Mr. Boardley, of a family in Maryland, afflicted with this singular disease.

"A. B. of the State of Maryland, has had six children, four of whom have died of a loss of blood from the most trifling scratches or bruises. A small pebble fell on the nail of a fore-finger of the last of them, when at play,  
being

being a year or two old. In a short time the blood issued from the end of the finger, until he bled to death. The physicians could not stop the bleeding, two of the brothers, still living, are going the same way, they bleed copiously upon the slightest scratch; and the father looks every day for an accident that will destroy them. Their surviving sister shews not the least disposition to that threatening disorder, although scratched and wounded. The father gave me this account two days since; but I was not inquisitive enough for particulars."



*Extraordinary* INSTANCE OF FEMALE FORTITUDE.

THE following interesting account of Mons. and Mad. O. is taken from Mr. Carr's *Stranger in France*; or a Tour from Devonshire to Paris:—

"M. O. spoke of his lady with all the tender eulogium of a young lover. Their union was entirely from attachment, and had been resisted on the part of Madame O. when he first addressed her, only because her fortune was humble, compared with his. He informed me, and I must not suppress the story, that in the time of blood, this amiable woman, who is remarkable for the delicacy of her mind, and for the beauty and majesty of her person, displayed a degree of coolness and courage, which, in the field of battle, would have covered the hero with laurels. One evening, a short period before the family left France, a party of those murderers, who were sent for by Robespierre, from the frontiers which divide France from Italy, and who were by that arch-fiend employed in all the butcheries and massacres of Paris, entered the peaceful village of La Reine, in search of Mons. O. His lady saw them advancing, and anticipating their errand, had just time to give her husband intelligence of their approach, who left his chateau by a back door, and secreted himself in the

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house

house of a neighbour. Madame O. with perfect composure, went out to meet them, and received them in the most gracious manner. They sternly demanded Mons. O. She informed them that he had left the country; and after engaging them in conversation, she conducted them into her drawing-room, and regaled them with her best wines, and made her servants attend upon them with unusual deference and ceremony. Their appearance was altogether horrible; they wore leather aprons, which were sprinkled all over with blood, they had large horse-pistols in their belts, and a dirk and sabre by their sides. Their looks were full of ferocity, and they spoke a harsh dissonant, *patois*, or country language. Over their cups they talked about the bloody business of that day's occupation; in the course of which they drew out their dirks, and wiped from their handles clots of blood and hair. Madame O. sat with them, undismayed by their frightful deportment. After drinking several bottles of Champaign and Burgundy, these savages began to grow good-humoured, and seemed to be completely fascinated by the amiable, unembarrassed, and hospitable behaviour of their fair landlady. After carousing till midnight, they pressed her to retire, observing, that they had been received so handsomely, that they were convinced Mons. O. had been misrepresented, and was no enemy to the good cause; they added, that they found the wines excellent, and after drinking two or three bottles more, they would leave the house, without causing her any reason to regret their admission. Madame O. with all the appearance of perfect tranquillity and confidence in their promises, wished her unwelcome visitors a good night; and after visiting her children in their rooms, she threw herself upon her bed, with a loaded pistol in each hand, and overwhelmed with suppressed agony and agitation, she soundly slept till she was called by her servants, two hours after the wretches were gone.



## SINGULAR INSTANCE OF INSANITY.

**I**N the village of Bedlington, near Morpeth, in Northumberland, a very extraordinary instance of insanity, well worth the attention of the medical philosopher, has lately occurred. The father of the young man who is insane, having some time ago experienced considerable pecuniary difficulties, became at length so reduced in his circumstances, that he was obliged to work as a day-labourer. His eldest son was so much affected by this alteration in his father's affairs, that he grew gradually melancholy, and at length entirely desisted from speaking or moving his eyes, hands, or legs. He is put to bed at night, and fed like a child during the day, without the least apparent feeling of pain or pleasure. When he awakes, he walks to the centre of the room, where he stands all day long immoveable, directing his eyes constantly to the fire; and amidst all the work and bustle which may be going forward in the house around him, he is still the same. The position he stands in, is with his hands linked in each other, and with a downcast melancholy look; and if he is forcibly moved from that position, he resumes it the first opportunity.

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A REMARKABLE THUNDER STORM,

OCCURRED at Batheaston, in Somersetshire, on the 21st Nov. 1803; when the Rev. Mr. Webber and his spouse, sitting in their parlour, a hail-storm came on, attended with lightning, and instantly burst open the window shutters.—The window was shattered to pieces, and two pieces of slate-stone were driven into the apartment. It appears that the house was struck in three directions, East, West, and South. It was totally stripped of the thatch, some of which, by the violence of the wind, was carried to a great distance. Twelve, out of fifteen windows, were literally
shivered

shivered to atoms, and the lead of one of the chamber windows melted. The roof of a barn, a stable, and several out-houses, were blown in ; and the roof of the church slightly struck. Many trees torn up by the roots, and one apple tree carried away 24 feet from where it stood. The lightning continued very vivid, and with very little intermission the whole night. As a circumstance singularly coincident with the above, on the 27th of the same month of November, in 1723, there was a similar storm in that neighbourhood ; when Bishop Kidder and his lady were killed in the Palace of Wells, by the falling in of one of the chimnies, which buried them both in the ruins.

UNCOMMON STRENGTH.

COUNT ORLOW, the Russian Minister, so famous under the late Empress Catherine, was at Rome some years since, when he was much at the house of the Marchioness Gentili Bocca Paduli ; where being one day disposed to exhibit some of his performances in this way, he took up several pieces of chrystals, iron, and other hard substances, which he broke between his fingers with the utmost facility. He afterwards placed an apple between two fingers only, and compressing them, the apple bursting immediately, flew about the apartment in all directions. Another time, he made the experiment before the Duke of Gloucester, brother to his Majesty ; and though one of the fragments flew very forcibly in his Highness's face, and the company, in general, testified their regret at the circumstance, Prince Orlow, it was remarked, whose manners were nearly as brutal as his strength, never attempted the least apology and the relator remarks, that the scoundrel who had strangled his own Sovereign, the unfortunate Emperor, Peter, could not be supposed to entertain much respect for the brother of a King !

LONGEVITY.

LONGEVITY.

PERHAPS no Presbytery in the Church of Scotland, nor any Society consisting of only 29 Members, can produce so many instances of Longevity, as are at present to be found among the Members of the Presbytery of Ayr.—Each of the five senior Ministers of the Presbytery, have enjoyed a Benefice within its bounds more than half a century. The dates of their respective ordinations, as entered on the Presbytery records, are the following :—Rev. John Steele, Stair, 14th Aug. 1755, above 68 years ; Rev. Dr. William Dalrymple, Ayr, 18th Dec. 1746, nearly 57 years ; Rev. Dr. David Shaw, Coylton, 29th June, 1749, above 54 years ; Rev. Dr. Andrew Mitchell, Monkton, 11th July, 1751, above 52 years ; and the Rev. Matthew Biggar, Kirkoswald, 5th October, 1752, above 51 years :—In all 282 years.

The joint ages of these gentlemen amount to 419 years. The advanced age to which they have attained, affords a striking proof how much temperance and regularity contribute to prolong the period of human existence. Mr. Steele is the father not only of the Presbytery of Ayr, but of the Church of Scotland.

A SINGULAR CHARACTER.

MR. GEORGE CRANK, of Shrewsbury, died there last week, (Dec. 19, 1803,) aged 91 years. He was formerly a Clothworker, and very abstemious, eating very little animal food, and drinking nothing but water and milk from his earliest years. He had some innocent peculiarities ; one of which was, that he never wore a hat, but when he was going to church, where he was a regular and devout attendant, be the weather how it might. He was constantly present in Court during the Assizes, and before the Mayor and sitting Justices in the Exchequer ; from whence the public

public entertained such an estimation of his opinion, that it was always received with great attention and respect. He was also a constant attendant upon the new buildings in Shrewsbury, erected during the last half century. He died universally respected.

ASTONISHING INSTANCE OF TEMERITY IN A CHILD.

A WELL-DRESSED little girl, about 11 years of age, was taken before the Lord Mayor, on Monday, Dec. 5, being apprehended on Saturday evening, about nine o'clock, riding up and down the streets on horseback, without any saddle or bridle, only a rope round the horse's head.

The constable said she would give no account of herself, nor who the horse belonged to ; that they took her to the Poultry Compter, and sent the horse to the Green-Yard ; that she then told them different directions where her parents lived, all of which they found to be false ; and she still persisting to deceive them, the keeper of the Compter thought the only way to find out who she was, was to let her go out the next morning, and send a person to follow her : but she having observed the person, led him a dance of five or six miles ; at last she went to her father's house in the neighbourhood of Grosvenor-square. At the solicitation of her mother she was left, on promising to bring her to his Lordship next day. The mother of this child appeared with her ; she had a brass collar round her neck, with a padlock like a dog. The mother told the Lord Mayor, this little girl had run away so often, and played such tricks, that they were under the necessity to keep a collar round her neck, with her name and place of abode ; that on Saturday they were persuaded to take off her collar, when she ran away about two o'clock, and they knew not where she went ; that they had tried to get her into the Philanthropic Society, but could not.

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The Lord Mayor asked the girl where she got the horse; she said she found it in Holborn, about five o'clock, but did not know to whom it belonged. She refused to answer questions, but did not complain of any bad usage in her parents. She was threatened to be sent to Bridewell and flogged, or kept in the Compter for some days, when she cried, but at last the Lord Mayor told her he would suffer her to go home with her mother, if she would promise to behave better; with which she was so well pleased that she fell upon her knees, and attempted to kiss his Lordship for gratitude. The mother was asked if she thought this child was not sometimes deranged. This, she said, she was not sensible of; a doctor had examined her, but he could not find out that she was insane.

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JEMMY TAYLOR; THE SOUTHWARK MISER.

THIS character, whose penurious peculiarities attracted so much notice till 1793, when he died, was a native of Leicestershire; originally a weaver.—He afterwards became a stock-broker, in which pursuit he is known to have accumulated £200,000.—He, however, fared worse than the meanest mechanic. His raiment was ragged; his food indifferent and scanty, and his bed hard; for he lay upon nothing but rags and straw on the bare floor, and in a house which was hardly habitable. Gold was all his desire. His constant prayers were, Oh! Mammon, grant me more money! Two bankers clerks once called upon Jemmy, at his earnest invitation, to take *pot-luck* with him: they found the old boy boiling a solitary mutton chop, in an ocean of water, to make, what he called, some *comfortable* broth, for himself, and for his old friend, Mr. Daniel Dancer, whom he hourly expected. After some complimentary solicitations, they prevailed upon him to fetch a pot of porter; and while he was gone, they threw three halfpenny candles and two pieces into his cookery; which, no doubt, ameliorated the culinary mess, and made it more

delectable to these old hunks, who, from the sequel, devoured it with keen appetites. But the next time Jemmy Taylor met them upon the 'Change, he accused them of theft and robbery, in stealing his candles. But of this they cleared themselves, by solemnly declaring, they had only committed them to the pot, at the bottom of which he would find the wicks, if his hunger had not swallowed them. *Old Mapps*, the itinerant quill and pen merchant, of Stepney Green, shared also in the friendship of these saving wights, who were not a little edified with each other's experience and refinements in the art of living cheap. Jemmy Taylor always appeared in the streets with a long stick and clouted shoes, and innumerable darns and patches in his clothes. He never went to market for more than a *twopenny steak* at a time, and this he generally chose for its savoriness ; an outside piece, grown black by the wind, and mostly fly-blown, was his choice ; for he thriftily observed, " that meat was nothing, unless it smelt as well as tasted." The people at the Black Horse, in the Borough, used often to represent to him his folly in being so parsimonious and self-denying ; and as he was fast growing old, observed to him the propriety of indulging himself a little in comfortable things : but to all idea of expence, Jemmy Taylor was deaf : his reply used always to be, " that if his successors had as much pleasure in spending his property, as he had in hoarding it up, they need not complain of their lot in the world." By this observation, verifying the old adage, that says, " there is a pleasure in madness, which none but madmen know." If parity of years is the first step to friendship, parity of pursuits may be said to be the second. Mr. James Taylor knew all the *misérables* of the metropolis ; among the most conspicuous of whom, he ranked his quondam friends, the two brothers F——l's, of Spitalfields. These were likewise weavers ; and in their time had accumulated, by usury and speculation,

speculation, the enormous sum of £300,000, which they kept at interest in the funds, and thereby were always able to oblige a *friend* with any sum at a moment's warning.— These *worthies* are lately dead. Previous to the tax upon legacies, they had made wills; but upon the necessity of using stamps, they made over their property to their nephews and nieces, in order to evade the duty, and thereby saved from Government, into their own pockets, upwards of £3000. The eldest of these saving ones, ordered a very old shirt to be put on him but a day before he departed the world, in order to disappoint the nurse of a good one; it being customary to give the things the deceased has on, to those who have the care of them in their last moments. Had Jemmy Taylor lived to have heard of the deaths of these friends of his, he, no doubt, would have very much approved of these saving contrivances. A short time after the conclusion of the American war, the Earl of Northumberland having occasion for £74,000, to make a purchase, applied to his broker, and appointed a certain day to do the transfer. At the place and time of meeting, which was the round room in the Bank, there was posted in waiting Mr. Taylor, whose appearance was exactly that of a coachman's watering-man. Upon the Duke's appearance, the broker brought Jemmy forward to his Grace; who, not knowing him, thought he was a beggar that wanted alms; but being assured by Mr. *Consols*, that he was a *warm-man*, his Grace at last shook hands with him, and Jemmy accommodated the Peer with the £74,000, out of one stock, in the 4 per cents, where Jemmy usually kept his largest bulk of cash; and from whence it appeared by the books, he could have sold out as much more, and yet have had as much left, as would have made him comfortable all the rest of his days. One day, observing some ladies, near the Bank, buying some very fine fruit, he kept his eyes so wishfully fixed upon them, that one, thinking

him in great want, sent him out sixpence, which he received with a low bow, and immediately set off, and bought a twopenny steak, which he brought past the ladies, to let them see he had not misapplied their bounty. This anecdote need not be doubted, as it appeared in the papers at the time, and all his acquaintance talked of the fact.—Jemmy, though an inhabitant of a populous city, sometimes exercised the severe virtue of self-denial, in circumstances which might have shewn his readiness to accommodate the parties that called upon his probity to pay his assessment of the parish-rates. When the officers waited at the door of his house in King-street, and inquired for Mr. Taylor, they were told, “there was not a *soul* in the house.” The collector perceiving old Hunks peeping between the bannisters, replied to the girl who answered, “that she was quite right, as he could only perceive her master, who was notoriously well known to be no *soul* at all!” In his last testament he forgot all his London relations: his cousin Taylor, of the Borough, and his nephew, of the Marlborough, in Bishopsgate-street, were equally unremembered in his will. These can say with truth, “he is gone a long journey: he has taken away the bag of money, and the devil knows what has become of them.” Though Jemmy had but little religion in his life, yet towards his latter end he discovered some thoughts of *et* hereafter. Finding himself ill, and fearing his illness might finish his days, he sent for the parish officers, the parson clerk, and curate, and, after intimating his intention of making a handsome bequest, paid them down £1200 for their prayers for the rest of his soul; but this bargain was not entirely settled until the gentlemen had returned him twelve months’ *interest* by way of *discount*—his usual demand for prompt payment! It appears that his enormous fortune devolved to two relatives in the country; while those of his kindred in London, in consequence of being

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cut off, have, no doubt, altered the tenor of their prayers, in one article at least, by praying for their deceased uncle, as the Papists pray for the souls of *Luther* and *Calvin*.—His name now adorns the donation board of the ancient church of St. Saviour, in the Borough.

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Another Instance of STONES falling from the CLOUDS.

ON the 14th of Nov. 1803, about half past 10 in the morning, about a quarter of a league from the city of Apt, in the department of *Vaucluse*, in the South of France, a whistling noise being heard by several persons, for the space of five or six minutes, which increased as it approached; a woman of the name of *Jully*, perceived a black substance descending from the air, and which fell on the ground in a neighbouring vineyard, on the side of the road where they then were, and about thirty paces from them; the descent of which, she and her husband distinctly heard. Several other persons also heard the whistling and noise at the same time. It was afterwards discovered, that this stone, in its fall, buried itself to the depth of about 10 inches. It was of a black substance, extremely hard, weighing about seven pounds six ounces:—It had a foetid smell resembling sour milk:—Struck with steel, it emitted very little fire. In the neighbouring Communes, several persons thought they heard a trembling of the earth on the same morning; but nearly at the instant in which it fell, a noise resembling that of a cannon, was heard, seemingly at a quarter of a league distance. After the fall of the stone, the whistling ceased entirely. This stone is now in the custody of the Prefect of *Vaucluse*, and kept by him for the purpose, as it is said, of making experiments, to find out, if possible, from whence this singular phenomenon could originate.

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## WONDERFUL ESCAPE OF LORD WILLIAM STEWART.

THE Crescent and Virginia frigates were cruising off Goree, on the 10th December 1803. The former being ordered into port, her Captain, Lord William Stewart, went on board the senior officer to receive instructions, when a sudden gale of wind arising, he, at the most imminent peril, endeavoured to regain his ship, from whence he was not perceived to quit the commodore : night coming on, he lost sight of both ships ; the gale increasing to a perfect hurricane, after three hours tossing and struggling in a heavy sea, frequently overwhelmed by its spray, the water up to the boat's thwart and men's knees, wave after wave threatening inevitable destruction, worn out with fatigue, they calmly lay on their oars, shook hands with each other, took an affectionate farewell, waiting that sea should consign them to oblivion ; when the Crescent, having by mere accident totally altered her course, drove immediately upon the boat. So miraculous was then their escape, that before they had well discovered the ship, they were under her bows, unable to make themselves heard the foam of the sea, caused by the ship's velocity, totally filled the boat ; opportunity just offered for the captain and crew to cling to the ship's side, when the boat swamped and, full of water, disappeared in an instant.

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 ANOTHER AURORA BOREALIS,

WAS particularly distinguished in the neighbourhood of Norwich, on the night of Tuesday, the 29th November. The light was not variable, as it usually is, and of the different prismatic colours, but of a pale gold colour, frequently approaching to white. The form was sometime round, but generally resembled the tail of a comet. About p. 8. South of Lynn, and below it, a bright gold-coloured meteor, resembling Jupiter, was observed for eight or ten seconds

seconds ; and another occurred in an hour afterwards. These, and several smaller meteors, called shooting stars, and some faint lightning appeared southerly, and seemed to approach the direction of the magnetic meridian. Their lustre must have been very considerable, as it was not effaced by that of the moon, which had just passed the full.

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STRANGE SUBSTANCES FOUND IN THE HUMAN BODY.

ON the 24th May 1766, Eleonora Kaylock entered the hospital at Gloucester, to be cured of a pain in her side, occasioned by three pins, which she had swallowed nine months before. This pain was on the right side. Three months after, there gathered a tumour near the left shoulder. It was suppurated and opened, and the three pins came out by this wound. The case is given by Lysons, Physician to the hospital, in a letter to Nichols.

A citizen of Besancon, named Conlon, wrote to the Abbe Bignon, that a young cow, of three years old, belonging to one of his farmers, had had a tumour on its right shoulder. The farmer, when he judged it sufficiently ripe, had opened it, and freed it from a quantity of pus ; but he had been much surprised to discover in it the end of the blade of a little knife, which, by the process of nature, gradually projected more and more. He attempted to extract it ; but after bringing forward the blade, he found a resistance which prevented him from obtaining the whole of the extraneous body. This resistance was occasioned by the haft of the knife, and he was obliged to leave the whole to nature. The blade of the knife remained out of the wound, sometimes more, and sometimes less projected, and without preventing the cow from bearing two calves.—Some time after, the extraneous body disappeared ; but it was not at first known, whether it had entirely come out and fallen, or whether it returned within ; whether the  
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cow had lain upon it, or whether she had been struck on the part. The incertitude did not continue long.—The cow was seen to waste; and, at length, it died.—The knife was found within its body; but the author does not say, whether in the shoulder it was, in the arm, or what other part of the body. All that can be conjectured as to the arrival of this accident, is, that a little shepherd boy, who always carried salt in his pocket, of which the cow was very fond, had put the knife into her manger, and that she had swallowed it.

Vanhelmont gives an account of an ear of barley, swallowed before it was ripe, by a child which had put it into its mouth in play, and which was some time afterwards withdrawn from a purulent tumour on the right hypochondre, where the ear had acquired a yellow colour. Fernel records a fact nearly similar.

Volgnad assures us, on the authority of the surgeon of Duke Frederic William of Altenburg, that a labourer's child having put an ear of corn in its mouth, and swallowed one of its awns, an abcess was formed in the child's arm, whence it was extracted by this surgeon.

Dr. Pierce, of Bath, informs us, that a lady of twenty-eight years of age, having died after frequent vomiting and fever, he opened the body. Besides an abcess in the pancreas, he observes, which had sphacelated a part of the stomach and intestines, and doubtlessly been the cause of the vomitings that she had experienced, he found, in one of the reins, an extraneous body, which, at first, he had taken for a stone; but having washed it, and freed it from the mucus with which it was enveloped, he found that it was a little tubinated shell, the cavity of which was filled with a viscous matter, little different in consistence from the body of a snail, but of the colour of blood. This little shell had five or six spiral volutes. The surface was chequered, and the squares alternately projecting and sunk.

## GREAT EARTHQUAKE AT JAMAICA, IN 1692.

JAMAICA has been always a place remarkable for earthquakes, and, indeed, they are so common, that the inhabitants expect one every year. Dr. Sloan gives us the history of one in 1687, and we have accounts, by several authors, of the following, still more terrible, in 1692. In two minutes time, it shook down, and drowned nine-tenths of the town of Port-Royal. The houses sunk outright 30 or 40 fathoms deep. The earth opened and swallowed up the people in one street, and threw them up in another; some rose in the middle of the harbour, and yet were saved. —While the houses on one side of a street were swallowed up, on the other they were thrown on heaps; and the land in the street rising like waves in the sea, lifted up every body that stood on it, and then suddenly sinking into pits, and at the same instant a flood of water breaking in, rolled them over and over, some catching hold of beams and rafters, or whatever came in their way. Ships and hoops in the harbour were overset and lost; and the Swan-igate in particular, by the motion of the sea and sinking of the wharf, was driven over the tops of many houses. All this was attended with a hollow rumbling noise, like that of thunder. In less than a minute, three quarters of the houses, and the ground they stood on, with the inhabitants, were all sunk under water: and the little part left behind, was no better than a heap of rubbish. The shock was so violent, that it threw people down on their knees or their faces, as they ran about to seek a place of safety. The earth heaved and swelled like the rolling billows, and several houses still standing, were shifted and moved some yards out of their places. A whole street was now twice as broad as before; and in many places the earth cracked, opened and shut, with a motion quick and fast, and of these openings, two or three hundred might be seen at a time:

in some of these the people were swallowed up ; in others they were caught by the middle, and pressed to death and in others the heads only appeared. The larger of the openings swallowed up houses, and out of some, whole rivers of water spouted up a prodigious height into the air, threatening a deluge to that part spared by the earthquake. And besides from all the wells, from one fathom to six or seven deep, the water flew out at the top with a surprising and irresistible violence. The whole was attended with stench and offensive smells, and the noise of falling mountains at a distance ; while the sky, in a minute's time, turned dull and reddish, like a glowing oven. Yet, great a sufferer as Port-Royal was, more houses were standing in it than on the whole island besides. Scarcely a planter's house, or sugar-work, was left standing in all Jamaica. A great part was swallowed up, houses, people and trees, at one gape : in the room of which there afterwards appeared great pools of water, which, when dried up, discovered nothing but sand, without any mark, as if ever tree or plant had been there : 2000 people lost their lives and had this terrible scene happened in the night, it is thought very few would have escaped : 1000 acres of land were sunk : one Hopkins had his plantation removed half a mile from its place. Yet the shocks were the most violent among the rocks and mountains, in whose caverns the matter that produced the earthquake was supposed to lie.

Not far from Yallahouse, part of a mountain, after it had made several leaps or removes, overwhelmed a whole family, and a great part of a plantation, though a mile distant ; and a large high mountain near Port Morant, at a day's journey over, was quite swallowed up, and in the place where it stood, nothing remained but a lake of ten or five leagues over. The tops of high mountains swam down with them in their fall, trees and other things went their way ; and these vast pieces of mountains, with  
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their trees thereon, falling together in a confused manner, stopped up most of the rivers for near 24 hours, till swelling up, they made themselves new channels, tearing up in their passage every thing that opposed them, and carrying with them into the sea several hundred thousand tons of timber, floating in such prodigious quantities, that they seemed like moving islands. In Liguania, the sea retired from the land in such a manner, that for two or three hundred yards the bottom appeared dry, and the fish were left behind; but in a minute or two's time it returned again, and overflowed a great part of the shore. At Yallhouse, the sea retired above a mile. After the violence of these convulsive throws were over, those who escaped in the city of Port-Royal, got on board the ships in the harbour, where many continued above two months; the shocks all that time being so violent, and coming so thick, sometimes two or three in an hour, attended with a frightful noise, resembling a hollow rumbling thunder, with brimstone blasts, that they durst not come on shore. The consequence of this earthquake was a general sickness, occasioned by the vast quantity of noisome vapours belched forth, which swept away about three thousand persons.

It is observed at Jamaica, that in windy weather there never happens a shock; but when the air is extraordinary calm, it is always expected: that after rain, the shocks are generally smarter than at other times, which may be caused by the shutting up the pores of the earth, whereby the force is more pent in, and hath not so free a passage to perspire and spend itself. That since this earthquake, the land-breezes often fail, and instead of it, the sea-breezes blow all night; a thing scarcely known before, but since very common. In Port-Royal, and in many places all over the island, much sulphureous combustible matter hath been found, which would flame and burn like a candle, upon the least touch of fire.

*(To be continued.)*

A RAT-CATCHER, who lived at Oxford in 1788, had a very famous dog; for some time he perceived that the animal was very uneasy, and walked inclining on one side. To relieve him, if possible, he had often examined his side, but never found any thing that could account for it; till one day, when examining him, for the same purpose, he felt something slightly prick his hand, when getting a pair of scissars to clip away the hair, he accidentally caught hold of the point of a needle, which proved a large one, used for darning stockings, and he drew it out of his body, with a piece of worsted attached to it a yard and a half long.—What was more extraordinary, the dog was instantaneously cured of the inconvenience he had laboured under, without any further application whatever.

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Extraordinary STRENGTH of DE COURCY, Earl of Ulster, in the Reign of King John; which was the Cause of the Family Privilege of being covered before the King.

THIS privilege appears to have been granted by that Monarch, in 1203; when John de Courcy, Earl of Ulster, was supplanted, and lost the King's favour; Hugh de Lacy, the younger, Earl of Meath, who was formerly joined with him in the government of Ireland, alledging he had spoken several disrespectful words, highly reflecting on the King about the murder of his nephew Arthur, Duke of Britany in France (whose right to the crown was before that of King John); at which the King being sorely displeased, ordered the said Lacy, who was then Governor of Ireland, to seize the Earl of Ulster, and send him prisoner to England. Lacy, who was the Earl's grand enemy, gladly obeyed the command, and several times attempted to take him by force; but finding that would not do, he at last hired some of the Earl's own servants to betray their master into his hands, which took effect on Good-Friday, 1203; for on that day, the Earl (according to the devotion

devotion of the times) was walking unarmed and barefoot, round the church-yard of Downpatrick, for penance ; Lacy and his party came upon him unawares, and he having nothing to defend himself but the pole of a wooden cross which stood in the church-yard, was overpowered and forced to yield, after he had killed thirteen of Lacy's men. This great Earl, after being thus betrayed, was sent prisoner to London, and after he had been confined some time in the Tower, a dispute arose between King John, of England, and Philip, august King of France, about the title to the Dutchy of Normandy ; which, to hinder the greater effusion of human blood, was referred to two champions to decide : the French champion was ready, but none of King John's subjects would answer the challenge ; upon which the King was informed, that John de Courcy, late Earl of Ulster, who was then a prisoner in the Tower of London, was the only man in his dominions who could do it, if he would undertake it : the King being thus informed, sent twice to the Earl for that purpose, but he refused it each time, saying, " Not for him, for I esteem him unworthy the adventure of my blood, by reason of the ungrateful returns he made for my services and loyalty to the crown, in imprisoning me unheard, at the suit of my rival and enemy, Hugh de Lacy : " But the King sending the third time, to know if he would fight for the honour of his country, he made this answer ; " That for the crown and dignity of the realm, in which many an honest man liveth, against his will, (meaning the King,) I shall be contented to hazard my life." The day of combat being appointed, (in Normandy,) the Earl's own sword was sent for out of Ireland ; but when the day came, and every thing was ready for the fight, and the champions were entered the lists, in the presence of the Kings of England, France, and Scotland ; the French champion, not liking the strong proportion of the Earl's body, nor the terrible weapon he bore in his hand,

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when the trumpet sounded the last charge, he set spurs to his horse, broke through the lists, and fled into Spain, from whence he never returned. The French champion thus taking his flight, the victory was adjudged to the Earl of Ulster; but the Kings hearing of his great strength, and being willing to see some trial of it, they ordered an helmet of excellent proof, full-faced with mail, to be laid upon a block of wood, which the Earl with one blow cut asunder, and struck his sword so deep into the wood, that none there present but himself could draw it out again; which sword, together with his armour, are to this day preserved in the Tower of London. After this noble performance, the King restored him to his former titles and estate, which was valued at that time at 25,000 marks sterling per annum, a vast income in those days; and likewise bade him ask for any thing else in his gift he had a mind to, and it should be granted; upon which the Earl replied, he had titles and estate enough, but desired that he and his successors, the heirs male of his family (after him) might have the privilege, after their first obeisance, to be covered in the royal presence of him and his successors, Kings of England, which the King granted, and the said privilege is preserved in the family to this day. The Earl afterwards arriving in England, attempted fifteen several times to cross the seas from thence into Ireland, but was every time put back by contrary winds; whereupon he altered his course, and went into France, where he died in the year 1210, leaving issue by Africa his widow, daughter to Godfrey, King of the Isle of Man, and of the Western Isles of Scotland, Myles his heir and successor.

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#### A HORNED MAN:

IN the year 1598, was exhibited for a shew, at Paris, two months successively, and from thence carried to Orleans, where

where he died soon after.—His name was Francis Trovillon; of whom Fabritius, in his Chirurgical Observations, gives the following description:—"He was of a middle stature, a full body, bald, except in the hinder part of the head, which had a few hairs upon it; his temper was morose, and his demeanour altogether rustic: he was born in a little village called Mezieres, and bred up in the woods amongst the charcoal men. About the seventh year of his age, he began to have a swelling in his forehead; so that about the seventeenth year of his age, he had a horn there as big as a man's finger end, which afterwards did admit of that growth and increase, that when he came to be thirty-five years old, this horn had both the bigness and resemblance of a ram's horn. It grew upon the midst of his forehead, and then bended backward as far as the coronal suture, where the other end of it did sometimes so stick in the skin, that, to avoid much pain, he was constrained to cut off some part of the end of it: whether this horn had its roots in the skin or forehead, I know not; but probably being of that weight and bigness, it grew from the skull itself: nor am I certain whether this man had any of those teeth which we call grinders. It was during this man's public exposure at Paris, (saith Urstitious) in 1598, that I, in company with Dr. Jacobus Faeschius, the public Professor of Basil, and Mr. Joannes Eckenstenius, did see and handle this horn."

*An original and circumstantial Account of the late celebrated Miss THEODORA GRAHN, commonly called THEODORA DE VERDION, Exchange Broker, Amanuensis, Teacher of Languages, &c. &c.; a Native of Berlin:—Who, ever since her Residence in England, appeared only in a Man's Habit.—With her Portrait.*

#### 48 ACCOUNT OF THE LATE MISS THEODORA GRAHN;

[Of this celebrated Female, of whose real origin, all the accounts hitherto published, have been widely erroneous; we are enabled to present the following particulars respecting her early life, from some Memoirs of her, just published at Berlin, the real place, of her nativity.]

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**T**HIS person was the only daughter of an architect, of the name of Grahn, who erected several edifices in the city of Berlin, particularly the Church of St. Peter's; and who died in 1740, at Bayreuth. After his decease, his daughter returned to Berlin, and resided with a relative. With much natural capacity, she was proportionably eccentric in her manners. She wrote an excellent hand, and had learned the Mathematics, the French, Italian, and English languages. Her aunt dying in 1758, she left her a legacy of 1000 rix-dollars; which to improve, she immediately commenced the business of an Exchange Broker. During the seven years' war, which was very favourable for her occupation, she did a great deal of business, and was to be seen every day from one counting-house to another, all through the city. In dirty weather she began to wear boots, and with two large bags on each arm, though she had not then thrown by the dress of a female, cut a very remarkable figure. At the end of the war, she had more than doubled her capital: she then went again to Bayreuth, in Prussia; but when she returned, appeared altogether in man's attire, dressed like a huntsman:—This was in 1768.—She then, for the first time, styled herself, Baron de Verdion, pretending she had some estates to justify the title. She was, however, not taken much notice of, till M. Basedow, at the end of 1769, commenced his Scholastic Reforms in Germany. Baron de Verdion, with other persons of ingenuity, became an enthusiast in his cause; and in fine, engaged with him as his secretary and amanuensis. Hence, being shut up with him in private, whole days together, it gave occasion to the tongue of rumour, which knew De  
Verdion.

Verdion to be a woman, to fabricate a number of ludicrous tales. Basedow, however, after being compelled to part with De Verdion, would never admit she was a woman.—The offence also, which he gave her in this removal, she was equally as loth to forgive; and therefore made it her business more than ever to visit the coffee-houses at Berlin, there introducing the subject of the dispute between them, upon every possible occasion, and shewing a letter she had received from him. At length, some young men belonging to a merchant's counting-house, inviting her to an inn, took advantage of her inebriation, a vice to which it seems she was attached in early life, and verified her sex beyond all possibility of doubt.

After this untoward exposure, as she could no longer support the idea of remaining at Berlin, she embarked for England, where she commenced Teacher of the German language, under the name of Dr. John de Verdion; and after some time, it is said, obtained the notice of Madam Schwellenberg, who came from Germany with our present Queen; and who, it is supposed, was well acquainted with her circumstances and her sex. From this lady, it is generally supposed, Miss De Verdion occasionally received pecuniary aid, probably to make up the deficiencies of her literary exchanges in books, which it will be made to appear, were not so profitable to her as those she made at Berlin, before her arrival in England.

In her exterior she was extremely grotesque: from her large cocked hat and bagged hair, with her boots, cane and umbrella, which she carried in all weathers. The latter of which she invariably carried in her hand, resting upon her back. She was a great deal at Furnival's-inn coffee-house in Holborn, dining there almost every day. Here though she concealed her sex, she could not help exhibiting her natural disposition as an extraordinary lover of good eating. She would have the first of every thing in season, and was

as strenuous for a large quantity, as she was dainty in the quality of what she chose for her table. At times, it is well known, she could dispense with three pounds of solid meat

A friend being once in her company, was absolutely witness to her eating eighteen eggs, and a proportionate quantity of bacon, which were all broken into the frying-pan at once; as much to the surprise as the entertainment of her friend, and all that were acquainted with the circumstance. She was also as much inclined to extravagant drinking, and once in particular, was so completely intoxicated at Furnival's-inn coffee-house, that being incapable of walking home, two persons were compelled to assist her: but though she never suffered any person whatever to go into her room, at this time she was necessitated to make an exception, or rather, these persons in some measure intruded themselves, in order that they might then perform the friendly office of undressing her and putting her to bed: this, however, they did not completely, nor wholly gratify their curiosity. But in the morning, finding what had been attempted, she waited on the master of the coffee-house, and earnestly requested, whatever might happen to her in future, that she might not be again sent home in such a manner; dreading, as we imagine, from what had occurred to her at Berlin, the probable exposure of her sex. She would often drink two bottles of wine at a sitting, and she has been frequently left in the coffee-house rolling upon the floor. She was particularly well known in the Book trade, generally having her pockets full of books, which she used to procure for gentlemen at coffee-houses, and her various friends. She also attended sales, and would buy to a large amount, sometimes a coach-load, &c. Here her singular figure generally made her the jest of the company, and sometimes the object of their wagging. Her general purchase at these sales was odd volumes: and these she used to carry to other Booksellers

and endeavour to sell, or chop and change for other books. She was likewise a considerable collector of medals and foreign coins of gold and silver ; but none of these were found after her decease. At home she was literally her own servant ; even cleaning her own room ; but this, it is to be noticed, she always performed in a woman's cap and bedgown ; and neither in Winter or Summer was she ever known to have any fire in her apartment.

A little before her death she complained of the lowness of her finances, when Mr. Denner, the master of the Furnival's-inn coffee-house, generously offered to open a subscription ; but she was very much offended, saying, that if she chose it, she could apply to the first personages in the kingdom. But notwithstanding this appearance of a high spirit, she had accepted of various sums of money from different gentlemen, a short time before her death, who then recommended her to use a more frugal way of living ;—upon which she replied, that it was impossible for her to exist under three guineas per week. It was her common practice towards the latter end of her life, to intrude very much upon her friends for eating and drinking, upon the strength of indications and indirect promises of making them amends, and remembering them in her will. Under a similar pretence, she also obtained a valuable coin from one of her acquaintances in Stanhope-street, Clare-market. She had been a frequent attendant upon the drawing-room at St. James's, appearing in full dress, and with a very elegant sword : this could not be found at her decease.—She was so remarkably timid, that being out after dark, she never cared to go home unattended ; for which she satisfied her attendants, seldom with money, but mostly with liquor. Once in particular as she was crossing Lincoln's-inn-fields, while some young men were running, she raised such a cry, mingled with oaths and invectives as to bring a great number of people about her. Another evening some young gentlemen

gentlemen who knew her foibles, followed her from the coffee-house, surrounded and jostled her, insisting upon it that she had picked one of their pockets. To get rid of this charge she referred them to the master of the coffee-house, who, of course, spoke in her favour, and with which pretending to be satisfied they went away, highly delighted with their frolic; as it had no object but to frighten her, they having very strong suspicion that she was a woman.

At another time several gentlemen using the coffee-house, expressed their positive assurance that she was a disguised female, and their intention to leave the house unless she was excluded from the room; being called to the bar, and acquainted with this circumstance, she made no reply but by an oath, that these gentlemen were "*Rogues*," and took no further notice of the matter.

The disorder of a cancer, which terminated the existence of this extraordinary character, was brought on by an accidental fall down stairs, by which her breast was hurt. This circumstance she was at length compelled to communicate to a friend, a German physician, who lived in the same house, who prescribed for her, when the disorder turned to a dropsy, and defied all cure.

By her will, dated June 8, she bequeathed all her property to Mr. Denner, the master of Furnival's-inn coffee-house; but upon his taking possession, it proved inadequate to discharge her bill, merely for eating and drinking, as very little remained besides her wardrobe.—She was so much terrified with the idea of being buried alive, that she made it a part of her will, to be kept above ground eight days after her decease; but this was dispensed with, owing to the state of her complaint. Till the last she had no expectation of her speedy dissolution, as she ordered the making of some new articles of dress, saying she was going out, and which came home the day preceding her death.

It was her desire that her funeral should be as little expensive



GREAT EARTHQUAKE AT JAMAICA, IN 1692. 53

pensive as possible ; and as her will was signed John de Verdion, the same was at first engraved on the coffin-plate, but afterwards altered to Miss De Verdion.

Her remains were deposited in the burying-ground of St. Andrew's, Holborn, in Gray's-inn-lane, at the age of 60.—She died at her lodgings in Upper Charles-street, Hatton-Garden, July 15, 1802.

GREAT EARTHQUAKE AT JAMAICA, 1692.

(Continued from Page 43.)

The following Letters from the Minister of Port-Royal in Jamaica, serve to convey an idea of the manner in which the minds of the people of Jamaica were affected under this terrible stroke of Providence.

“ DEAR FRIEND,

June 22, 1692.

“ I DOUBT not but you have heard of the dreadful calamity that hath befallen this island, by a terrible earthquake on the 7th instant, which hath thrown down almost all the houses, churches, sugar-works, mills and bridges in the island.

“ On Wednesday the 7th, I had been at prayers, which I did every day since I was Rector of Port-Royal, to keep up some shew of religion amongst a most ungodly and debauched people ; and was gone to a place near the church, where the merchants used to meet, and where the President of the Council then was.

“ To this gentleman's friendship, under the direction of the gracious and over-ruling will of Providence, I ascribe my own happy, and I may add, miraculous escape ; for by his pressing instances, I was prevailed upon to decline an invitation, which I had before accepted, to dine with Capt. Rudend, whose house upon the first concussion sunk into the sea, and with it his wife, his children, himself, and all that were with him, who every soul perished in this general, this dreadful devastation. Had I been of the number of his guests, my fate had been involved in theirs.— But, to return, we had scarce dined at the President's, before

before I felt the earth begin to heave and roll under me. Said I, 'Lord, Sir, what's this?' He replied, very composedly, 'It is an earthquake, be not afraid, it will soon be over.' But it increased, and we heard the church and tower fall; upon which we ran to save ourselves. I quickly lost him, and made towards Morgan's Fort, which being a wide open place, I thought to be there secure from falling houses: but as I made towards it, I saw the earth open and saw up a multitude of people, and the mounting in upon us over the fortifications.

"I then laid aside all thoughts of escaping, and resolved to make towards my own lodging, there to meet death as good a posture as I could. From the place where I was forced to cross and run through two or three very narrow streets. The houses and walls fell on each side me: some bricks came rolling over my shoes, but no hurt me. When I came to my lodging, I found all things in the order I had left them. I then went to my balcony to view the street in which our house stood, and saw neither house down there, nor the ground so much as cracked. The people seeing me, cried out to come and pray with them. When I came into the street, every one laid hold on my cloaths, and embraced me; so that I was almost stifled with their kindness. I persuaded them at last to kneel down and make a large ring, which they did; I prayed with them near an hour, when I was almost spent with the heat of the sun and the exercise. They then brought me a chair, the earth working all the while with new motions and tremblings, like the rollings of the sea; insomuch, that sometimes when I was at prayers, I could hardly keep up my knees.

"By that time I had been half an hour longer with them in setting before them their sins and heinous provocations, and seriously exhorting them to repentance, there came some merchants of the place, who desired me to go aboard

some ship in the harbour, and refresh myself, telling me that they had a boat to carry me off. I found the sea had swallowed up the wharf, with all the goodly brick houses upon it, most of them as fine as those in Cheapside, and two entire streets beyond that. From the tops of some houses which lay level with the water, I got first into a canoe, and then into a long boat, which put me aboard a ship called the Siam-Merchant. There I found the President safe, who was overjoyed to see me ; I continued in it that night, but could not sleep for the returns of the earthquake almost every hour, which made all the guns in the ship to jar and rattle.

“ The next day I went from ship to ship to visit those who were bruised and dying ; likewise to do the last office at the sinking of several corps which came floating from the point. This, indeed, has been my sorrowful employment ever since I came aboard this ship : we having had nothing but shakings of the earth, with thunder and lightning ever since. Besides the people being so desperately wicked, it makes me afraid to stay in the place : for every day this terrible earthquake happened, as soon as night came on, a company of lewd rogues, whom they call privateers, fell to breaking open warehouses, and houses deserted, to rob and rifle their neighbours, while the earth trembled under them, and the houses fell on some of them in the act : and those audacious whores, who remain still upon the place, are as impudent and drunken as ever.

“ I have been twice on shore to pray with bruised and dying people, where I met too many drunk and swearing. I did not spare them, nor the magistrates neither, who have suffered wickedness to grow to such a height. I have, I bless God, to the best of my skill and power, discharged my duty in this place. In the last sermon I delivered in the church, I set before them what would be the issue of their impenitence and wickedness so clearly, that they have since acknowledged

knowledged it more like a prophecy than a sermon. I confess, an impulse on me to do it ; and many times have preached in this pulpit things, which I never printed at home, and could not, methought, do otherwise.

“ The day when all this befel us was very clear, afforded not the suspicion of the least evil ; but in the space of three minutes, about half an hour after eleven in the morning, Port-Royal, the fairest town of all the English plantations, the best emporium and mart of this part of the world, rich, plentiful of all good things, was shaken and shattered to pieces, sunk into, and covered for the greater part of the sea ; few of the houses are left whole, and every day we hear them fall.

“ I came on board this ship in order to return home ; the people are so importunate with me to stay, that I know not what to say to them. I must undergo great hardships if I continue here, the country being broke all to pieces and dissettled ; but it looks very unnatural to leave them in distress ; and, therefore, whatever I suffer, I would not let such a blame lie at my door ; so that I am resolved to stay a year longer.”

#### SECOND LETTER.

June 28,

“ EVER since that fatal day, the most terrible that ever I lived in my life, I have lived on board a ship ; for the shaking of the earth returns every now and then. Yesterday we had a very great one ; but it seems less terrible on shipboard than on shore ; yet I have ventured to Port-Royal no less than three times among the shattered houses, to bury the dead, pray with the sick, and christen the children. Yesterday last I preached among them in a tent, the houses which remain being so shattered, that I durst not venture in them. The people are overjoyed to see me among them, and welcome me as bitterly as I preached. I hope, by this terrible judgment God will make them reform their lives ; for there was never a more ungodly people on the face of the earth.

“ It is a sad sight to see this harbour, one of the fairest I ever saw, covered with the dead bodies of people of all conditions, floating up and down without burial ; for our burying place was destroyed by the earthquake ; which dashed to pieces the tombs, the sea washed the carcasses of those who had been buried, out of their graves. We have had accounts from several parts of this island, but none suffered like Port-Royal, where whole streets, with their inhabitants, were swallowed up by the opening of the earth, which when shut in upon them, squeezed the people to death. And in that manner several are left with their heads above ground ; only some heads the dogs have eaten ; others are covered with dust and earth by the people who yet remain in the place, to avoid the stench.

“ Thus I have told you a long story ; and God knows what worse may happen yet. I am afraid to stay, and yet know not how, in point of conscience, at such a juncture, to quit my station. I am, Sir, Yours, &c.”

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TO THE EDITOR.

“ SIR,—Finding my last and former requests complied with, to my satisfaction, it has encouraged me now to offer you other miscellaneous articles for your acceptance and leave, to be inserted in your next Magazine ; and I flatter myself, these will add to the numerous and astonishing Accounts with which your excellent Publication abounds ; and you will confer an obligation on your occasional Correspondent,

Nottingham, Jan. 6, 1804.

D. B. L.”

EXTRAORDINARY ACCOUNT OF A SHEEP.

THE following curious and extraordinary circumstance occurred during the month of January 1796 :—A ewe sheep, big with lamb, the property of Mr. Mulling, of Henstridge, in the county of Somerset, was found dead in the field, occasioned by her falling into a trench or furrow. On opening her, she was found to contain six lambs, all perfectly formed, but materially differing in

size and maturity; one of the couple was as large as lambs usually are at the time of yearning, and covered with wool; the second couple smaller, and were without wool; and the third appeared about half-grown; from whence it is probable, they were the effect of three separate and distinct conceptions.

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SINGULAR INSTANCE OF UNWEARIED ATTACHMENT.

**I**N the beginning of the month of November 1803, was married, Mr. Thomas Dufty, a respectable farmer of Epperstone, near Mansfield, in the county of Nottingham, to Miss Grame, a lady of fortune, in the county of Westmoreland. The annals of matrimony scarce afford a more singular instance of unwearied attachment than the following: The parties were known to each other in their youth, and became mutually enamoured; but the unrelenting opposition of parents broke off the match. Mr. D. found another connection, he married and was the father of several children, and became a widower. His first love was again by correspondence renewed, again frustrated. By the same means he sought consolation in the arms of a second wife, his family again increased, and he a second time became a widower. His first flame still unextinguished, once more renewed, and former obstacles being extinct, after a lapse of 25 years, without ever seeing each other in the interval, this couple have at length united.

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TWO REMARKABLE INSTANCES OF FECUNDITY.

ON the 31st of August 1803, Mary, the wife of Thomas Cooke, an industrious cottager, of Haggon-field, near Worksop, was safely delivered of one boy and two girls, all fine children. The parents are each in their 46th year, have had ten children prior to this treble birth, at one time twins. Their eldest daughter is married, and has had three children;

children ; a grandmother is therefore the mother of the three new-born infants.

To keep pace, however, with the prolific family above described, a few days after, Mrs. White, of Thrumpton, near Retford, Nottinghamshire, was safely delivered of three children, two girls and one boy, all now living.

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*A remarkable FLOATING ISLAND in this Country.*

ADJOINING Eastwaite-water, near Hawkshead, Lancashire, there is a tarn (or small lake) called Priestspot, upon which is an island, containing about a rood of land, mostly covered with willows : some of them 18 or 20 feet high.—This island is distinguished by the name of *The Car*. At the breaking up of the severe frost in the year 1795, a boy ran into the house of the proprietor of this island, who lived within view of it, and told him that “ *his Car* was coming up the Tarn.” The proprietor and his family soon proved the truth of the boy’s report, and beheld with astonishment, not “ *Bernam-wood removed to Dunsinane!*” but the woody island approaching them with slow and majestic motion.—It rested, however, before it reached the edge of the Tarn, and afterwards frequently changed its position as the wind directed : being sometimes seen at one side of the lake, which is about 200 yards across, and sometimes in the center. It is conjectured to have been long separated from the bed of the lake, and only fastened by some of the roots of the trees, which were probably broken by the extraordinary rise of the water on the melting of the ice.

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AGRICULTURAL EXPERIMENT.

THE following Agricultural experiment was made by Mr. Alsagar, of Acton Beauchamp, in Herefordshire.—In August 1795, he set a single grain of wheat ; as soon as it had properly taken root, he took it up and divided it into

several parts, and transplanted them.—In August 1796, it was reaped, when it produced 137 ears; the average of which was 80 grains in each ear; the total produce 10,960 grains of wheat, besides the straw, most of which was seven feet high. This clearly shews, what a prodigious saving there is even in the common mode of setting, or what is termed dibbling, in comparison with the general practice of sowing the seed corn.

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SUDDEN AND VIOLENT INUNDATION.

IN the beginning of April 1792, the inhabitants of Bromsgrove, were alarmed and distressed beyond description, by one of the most violent and sudden inundations ever known. Between three and four o'clock, during a storm, accompanied with loud and continued claps of thunder, and the most vivid lightning, a water-spout fell upon that part of the Lickey which is nearest the town. The pouring down of the cataract was heard to a considerable distance, and the body of water taking a direction towards Bromsgrove, soon swept away every thing before it, laid down the hedges, washed quantities of grain from barns and malt-houses, destroyed tan-yards; and so strong was the current, that it floated through the town a waggon loaded with skins. The inhabitants of the place had no time to take the necessary precautions; almost in an instant the cellars and under-kitchens were filled to the top, and every thing in them overturned. In a few minutes the water entered at the parlour windows, covered the counters of shops, and in the principal street it rose and continued upwards of five feet perpendicular from the pavement. The horses in some of the inn-stables, stood up to their tails in water.—Pigs washed from their styes, were swimming through the passages of the houses situated between the brook and the principal street; down which quantities of furniture, brewing utensils, cloathing, shop articles, grain, garden-pails, wheel-



wheelbarrows, pigs, dogs, timber, &c. were carried in one mass by the impetuous torrent. Many of the inhabitants, who happened to be at the neighbours, could not that evening return home. A house on the borders of the **Lickey** was thrown down by the force of the water, though we do not hear any were destroyed in Bromsgrove; but the damage sustained by the shopkeepers, (and particularly hucksters,) was very great. The hedges and other fences to fields and gardens on the side of the town, were entirely demolished, numbers of sheep and pigs were drowned; and, in addition to the calamity, we have to add, that some young children also lost their lives.



*Curious ANTIQUITIES in LEADENHALL-STREET.*

**T**HE curiosities found since New-Year's day, in digging opposite the East India House in Leadenhall-street, proved to be exceedingly valuable. About ten feet below the surface of the street, the workmen finding something hard, it was immediately inspected by that respectable antiquarian Mr. Wilkins, by whose directions and assiduity a perfect urn was soon brought out. It contained a quantity of bones, among which a finger and jaw-bone were plainly discernable. A beautiful Roman tessellated pavement was also discovered; and by the nice attention of the same gentleman, one piece of about four feet by two, was raised uninjured. The entire pavement seems to have been a square of nine feet, in the centre of which is an elegantly adorned circle of four feet, containing a Bacchus holding a wand, and riding on a Tiger; the figure is in a purple robe, and the attitude of the beast is very grand; his head looking at the figure on his back, one of his fore-feet raised, stepping well forward, and the tail extended. Under the able direction of the librarian, there is no doubt of the whole being rendered well worthy the attention of the antiquarian.

A WONDER.

## A WONDERFUL PRESERVATION.

THE ship *Actæon*, Capt. Groat, being taken into the Dock at Hull, to repair the damage she received, in consequence of having been 14 days upon a rocky strand on the Island of Gothland, during her voyage from Narva to Hull, a large piece of rock, weighing 109lbs. was discovered fixed in a plank on the larboard-side, nearly in the midships, and close to the keel, which dropped out immediately on the sheathing being removed, leaving a large opening into the hold. Had it fallen out during her passage, she must inevitably have been lost.—A singular circumstance is mentioned in Cook's Voyages.

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LONGEVITY.—Seven persons have died in the course of a few weeks, whose united ages amount to *six hundred and seventy-seven years*, namely,—Mr. William Shipley, Projector of the Society for the Encouragement of Arts, &c. 89 years—Mr. G. Pudney, Parish Clerk of Kelvedon, Essex, 90—Mrs. Fisher, Roydon, Norfolk, 90—Mrs. Oliver, Vine-street, Piccadilly, 95—Mr. John Page, Gardener to the Asylum, 101—Mr. John Pusell, at Lanvhangell, 102—A female Pauper in Manchester Workhouse, 110—In all 677 years.

ACCOUNT OF JOHN OF KENT.

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OF the achievements of this subject of antiquity, the tongue of rumour, in the town of Glosmont, in Monmouthshire, is never at rest.—Old and young women, men and boys unite in relating, with extreme volubility, and without any material disagreement, a series of extraordinary tales concerning this wonderful personage; and whom they generally believe, had certainly made a compact with the devil.

John

John of Kent, Gwent, or Went, though a scholar and a Franciscan, following their most celebrated schools at Oxford, was originally bred at Chepstow, in Monmouthshire ; and being once employed by a farmer, and wanting to go to Grosmont Fair, it is related that he confined a number of crows in an old barn without a roof, to keep them from the corn ; and sure enough, says the Tradition, when Jack came back, they were all there ; for though they made a terrible clatter, they would not fly away till Jack came himself and broke the spell that confined them. Kentchurch House, the neighbouring seat of the Scudamore family, by whom some accounts say, Jack was hired as a servant, became afterwards the scene of his more marvellous exploits.—But after he came to maturity, as he built the bridge over the river Monnow, leading to Kentchurch, and which is still called John of Kent's Bridge, it is said to have been done in one night, by the help of familiar spirits.

At Kentchurch House, a cellar was shewn so late as 1801, as the stable where John kept horses, on which he traversed the air with the speed of Lapland Witches ; and his portrait on wood, painted in oil, is likewise preserved there.

An old tomb-stone in the church-yard of Grosmont, close to the East wall of the chancel, is said to cover his body ; and the legend reports, that he was buried there to evade the compact which he made with Satan, which was, that if he was buried either within or without the church, he should become his property.

The family of the Kentchurches, who have been lately applied to for the true character of this reputed sorcerer, could afford no specific or positive information. According to general tradition, he was a learned Monk, educated at one of the Universities, and remarkable for his acquirements, which made the vulgar, in an ignorant age, suppose

pose him another Friar Bacon. As a proof of his industry, it is known, that a Latin Translation of the Bible, on vellum, either made, or copied by him, was once in the Kentchurch family ; but has been mislaid or destroyed a long time since.

His other known works were, Commentaries on the Master of the Sentences—Sermons to the People—and Disputed Questions. He died in 1348, in the reign of Henry V. ; and the Catalogue of the Provincial Ministers, says of him—" Brother John Went, Doctor of Oxford, who wrought miracles in his lifetime, lies at Hereford."—According to others, he was a Bard of Owen Glendower, who, on the defeat of this chieftain, became domesticated in the family of the Scudamores ; one of whom married the daughter of the celebrated Owen.



#### A MAN BORN WITHOUT LEGS OR KNEES.

**T**HERE is now living in the parish of Ednam, the birth-place of the immortal poet Thomson, a young man 18 years of age, who was born without legs or knees, and his thighs defective. His father was a day-labourer, but has been dead some years :—he sits upon a table in the cottage through the day, and when the weather is fair, his mother carries him into a field, where he reads and enjoys the air. He has taught himself to read, to write a legible hand, to play on the flute, to draw with a pencil, although one of his arms he cannot raise to his breast ; and he attempts poetry. He is, notwithstanding the want of exercise, very healthy, always cheerful and contented, though his support entirely depends on the wages of his younger brother, who is servant to a respectable farmer at Ednam. He is very grateful to any person who lends him books, drawings to copy, or pays the least attention to him. His diet is exceedingly sparing. The lameness of one of his legs prevents

vents him from learning any business to earn his living.—He converses with great propriety upon every subject, although his articulation is also defective.

A case similar with the above, occurred some years ago in the South of France; where the unfortunate subject having neither legs nor thighs, was kept in a kind of case, and occasionally lifted about. What made the situation of this person the more lamentable, was his being endowed with an uncommon share of sensibility\*, which rendered him so much the more susceptible of the peculiarity of his situation. From the smallness of his size, it should be observed, he was deemed a dwarf.

Dec. 14, 1803.

Yours, &c.

J—s. R—N.



#### THE HAMMERSMITH GHOSTS.

*Being an authentic and particular Account of that mysterious and complicated Affair, which has excited so much Curiosity and Conceration; the Characters and Appearances of the supposed Spectre, the Circumstances that led to the Death of THOMAS MILLWOOD; the Trial of his Murderer, &c. &c.*

HAMMERSMITH, it appears, has been disturbed for some months past, by more than one supposed spectre, to the great annoyance of the male and female inhabitants.—In the church-yard, and several of the avenues about the place, it seems that various persons had been very much alarmed, by what they understood to have been supernatural beings, which had of course filled the minds of numbers with a variety of apprehensions; and these appearances latterly became particularly troublesome in the lower part of the town, near Dorvell's-row. Several of the inhabitants, aware of the imposture, during this time, had given themselves much trouble to detect it, but without success.—But on the night of Tuesday, January 3, Francis Smith, an exciseman, who lodged at Mr. Oakley's ad-

\* The poor youth of Ednam, having a portion of this gift, has published some very pretty verses, and in commiseration of his case, some well-disposed persons have lately opened a subscription for his benefit.

joining the *White Hart*, in Hammersmith; being at that house on the same evening, and we may suppose, warm over his liquor, wrought himself up to the resolution of going in quest of the ghost.—Unhappily supposing something more substantial than a mere airy form, he loaded a gun, and sallied out with William Girdler, the watchman of that part of Hammersmith, who had previously agreed upon a pass-word, whereby they might distinguish each other, which was—"Who comes there?" "A friend." "Advance, friend." Girdler then continued upon his regular beat, while Smith, that evening, went down *Black Lion-lane*. The circumstances that immediately followed, we cannot exhibit in a clearer point of view, than that of the ensuing evidence given before the Coroner, and upon the trial. It appeared before the Coroner, that Smith took his station in *Black Lion-lane*, one of the places where the ghost used to make his escape when hard pressed by his pursuers. He had not long been in waiting before he fancied he saw the wished-for object. A figure dressed in white (that is, Thomas Millwood, the plaisterer, in a white jacket and trowsers) approaching, Smith fired, and the mistaken object fell to the ground. Millwood was then on his way to a house in the neighbourhood, where his wife was at work, to fetch her home, which his sister also relates upon the trial:—She said her brother was about 23 years of age, and was a plaisterer by trade. On the evening of Tuesday last, he was at the house of his father, in *Black Lion-lane*, with whom the witness resides. He left the house between ten and eleven o'clock, and the witness being almost immediately struck with a presentiment that some accident would befall him, she accordingly went to the door, and stood on some bricks, in order to look out for him. She then heard a voice say, "D—n you, who are you?—Stand, else I'll shoot you!" and the report of a gun immediately succeeded. Her brother was perfectly sober.

sober. The neighbourhood had for about two months been disturbed with the report of a ghost ; but she did not believe, nor had ever heard, that her brother had assumed such an appearance.

Mr. John Lock, wine merchant, in Black Lion-lane, Hammersmith, said, that as he was returning home from the Plough and Harrow, on the evening of Tuesday last, about half past 10 o'clock, in company with Mr. Geo. Stow, he was accosted by Francis Smith, one of his Majesty's officers of excise, who asked to speak with him. Upon going aside, Smith informed him that he had shot a man, who he believed to be the ghost. The witness informed Mr. Stow of the circumstance, and they accompanied Smith to the place. They found the deceased lying in a cross lane leading from Beaver-lane to Black Lion-lane, upon his back, apparently dead. The wound was under his left under jaw, and the skin of his face was exceedingly black. Smith did not appear sensible that he had done any thing wrong, till the witness warned him of the consequences of such a step. He then seemed much affected, and said, that he had spoken twice, but had received no answer, and that the night was very dark.

William Girdler, a watchman, said, that he had a slight acquaintance with the deceased. That the neighbourhood had been much alarmed for two months past, with the rumour of a ghost walking through Black Lion-lane. That he went his rounds as usual on Tuesday evening last. That he had appointed to meet with Francis Smith, in order to go in search of the ghost. They had exchanged a watchword, which they were to use.—When the witness came near Mr. Stow's house he heard the report of a gun, and a few minutes afterwards, as he was going to the White Hart public-house, he met a young woman, who told him that he was wanted. Having gone on a little way, he met Smith, and asked him what intelligence ? Smith answered,

very bad. They then met Mr. Stow, and went to the place where the deceased lay. Smith said that he would deliver himself up ; that he had spoken to the deceased twice before he fired, but he would give him no answer.

The Coroner summed up the evidence with great ability and humanity when the Jury, after some deliberation, returned a verdict of *Wilful Murder*. A warrant was then made out, and Smith committed to Newgate.

On Friday, Jan. 13, he took his trial at the Old Bailey, being charged with *Wilful Murder*.

The first witness called, was Mr. John Lock, who added very little to what he had said before the Coroner, excepting that he consulted Mr. Stow, who was with him, going to a cross lane, called Lime-Kiln-lane, what was best to be done with the body. They sent for the high constable of the parish, and it was agreed to remove the body to the Black Lion public-house. It was evident, upon examining the deceased, that the head was shot just below the lower jaw on the left side.—The prisoner, then he said, wished to surrender himself into the hands of justice ; but the witness advised him to go home to his lodgings.

Mr. Lock, on his cross-examination by Mr. Const. Counsel for the prisoner, said, that the neighbourhood of Hammersmith had been much alarmed for upwards of five weeks previous to the death of Millwood, by means of a supposed ghost. He had, however, never seen any such appearance, but believed parties went out for the purpose of apprehending the person who was assuming the character.—The night was extremely dark, and the lane in which the unfortunate affair occurred, so much so, that a person could not be perceived on the opposite side of it. The witness said that he had known the prisoner some time ; his disposition was exceedingly mild and generous, and he was very much liked in the neighbourhood.

William Girdler, the watchman, corroborated the account given



given by Mr. Lock, as to the manner in which the deceased was found, and stated that the prisoner and himself parted about half past ten o'clock. Just after they parted, he heard the report of a gun, but did not attend to it, having been in the habit of hearing guns frequently fired in the night. After he had gone his rounds, he went to Mr. Horner's, the White Hart public-house, where the servant girl came out to him, and said that Smith wanted him, who told him that he had hurt a man; the witness said he hoped not much. Smith replied, that he was afraid he had hurt him very bad.

On his cross-examination by Mr. Gurney, Counsel for the prisoner, he said, he heard of the rumour of a ghost, and had seen it himself on the Thursday preceding the accident. It was standing on the opposite side of the road near to Beaver-lane, and was covered either with a large sheet or tablecloth. He pursued it, and the figure pulled off the covering and ran away. The prisoner he described as a good-tempered young man, certainly not of a cruel disposition.

Ann Millwood, a very genteel young woman, sister of the deceased, stated, that her brother was at her father's house about eleven o'clock on Tuesday evening, the 3d of January. His wife was absent from home, having gone to Mr. Smith, the out-rider; her mother and the family were going to bed, and she requested that he would go and fetch home his wife. He was going to bed himself, but at their intreaties got up and left the house for that purpose. She then repeated the same circumstances which were detailed before the Coroner.

Mr. Flower, surgeon, stated, that he examined the body of the deceased, by order of the Coroner, on the 6th of January. He found a gun-shot wound on the left side of the face, just below the under jaw. There were some small shot lodged in his neck, the size appeared about No. 4, the shot penetrated the vertebrae of the neck and injured

injured the spinal marrow. This, no doubt, in his mind, had occasioned his death. The deceased's face was exceedingly black, and was so in consequence of the powder which had lodged in it. This gentleman also gave Smith a good character, and said his disposition was far from being vindictive.

William Brooks, the constable, stated his apprehension of Smith at his lodgings, who had voluntarily come down when he knocked at the door, and surrendered himself.—He also bore testimony to his good character; and here the evidence for the prosecution closed.

The Lord Chief Baron then informed the prisoner, that he might offer any thing he had in his defence to the charge.

The prisoner saying he left his defence to his Counsel;

The Lord Chief Baron informed him, that his Counsel could only examine the witnesses, and that if he wished to say any thing, he must address the Court himself.

The prisoner then, in extreme agitation, said, that when he went out from home, it was with a very good intention; an intention of finding out the person who had alarmed the neighbourhood, by assuming a supernatural appearance; that meeting with the deceased, and having called to him twice, and not receiving an answer, he was very much frightened, and knew not what he did. He must most solemnly declare his innocence with respect to any intention of taking away the life of the unfortunate man, or any man whatsoever.

His Counsel then proceeded to call the witnesses on his behalf; the first,

Mrs. Fullbrook, a relation of the deceased, stated, she resided in the same house with him; and on Saturday preceding his death, being at home together, he informed her, that two ladies and a gentleman, on account of the dress he wore, had been frightened at him on the Terrace.—

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One of them cried as he came near, "There goes the ghost!" To which he replied, using a bad oath, "I am no more a ghost than yourself; do you want a punch o' the head?" On this account she had advised him to put on a great coat to screen himself from danger; but he would not attend to the suggestions of the witness, observing there was no danger.

Thomas Groom, servant to Mr. Burgess, a brewer at Hammersmith, stated, that he heard a great talk about the ghost; that one night he was passing through the churchyard, when some person caught him fast by the throat, and on his calling out for assistance to his fellow servant, who was a short distance from him, the latter turned back, but they could not see any thing.

Mr. George Stow, Mr. Hill, Mr. Rult, Mr. Boswell, Mr. Dowding, and several other very respectable persons, were called; they all concurred in giving him the best of characters.

Mr. Millwood, cousin to the deceased, spoke in the same terms of the prisoner, and said that they had no quarrel with each other as far as he knew.

The Lord Chief Baron then charged the Jury. The prisoner, he observed, stood indicted for the murder of Thomas Millwood, by shooting him with a gun, so as to bruise his head, injure the spinal marrow of his back, and produce instant death. It would be necessary for him to state, that although to constitute the crime of murder, it was generally requisite that *malice propense* should be proved, yet it was not absolutely so in all cases. The law did not of necessity imply, that where a person met with his death from the hands of another, that malice, or what was called in vulgar speaking, spite, should be proved. *The disposition of a person's mind to kill was sufficient, in the eye of the law to adjudge him guilty of murder.* For instance, if one person should have taken it into his head to fire into  
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the very hall in which the Court was sitting, and kill any one in the Court, then he would be guilty of *murder*. So, in another case, if a person should shoot at one man and kill another, he would be equally guilty. The law would consider his disposition of mind, which was evidently *to kill*, without having legal authority, just provocation, in self-defence, or in the absence of his reasoning faculty. There were grounds of mitigation which would serve to lessen the crime. His Lordship professed, that he could not, in the case now before the Court for its consideration, distinguish any one of these features of alleviation or mitigation; therefore, if the prisoner at the bar, had taken away the life of another, without authority, permission, or in defence of his own life, then his offence went to murder.— If it was not so, no one person could be safe. It would be in the power of any one to say, such and such a one *has* committed some offence which I think deserves death, and I will go and dispatch him. It would, indeed, be grievous if such proceedings were to be tolerated—because some wicked and malicious person, taking advantage of the credulity which belonged to a great portion of mankind, had committed a misdemeanour, in going about in an impious manner, assuming the appearance of a supernatural agent, was another person to say, “I will go and deliberately shoot that man who frightens the peaceable neighbourhood.” Certainly not. All that he could be authorised to do, would be to apprehend him for that misdemeanour.— Even if the very person appearing in this manner as a ghost had been killed, such killing was murder. But here a man thought he had a right to go and kill any person he saw in a light coloured coat. This was actually the case with the prisoner at the bar. He went out with a loaded gun, intending to kill, contrary to law, and killed a man who was perfectly innocent. “Gentlemen,” continued his Lordship, “I should be betraying my duty as a Judge, and

and acting contrary to the opinion of my Brother Judges near me, if I did not tell you that this act of the prisoner's, provided you believe the facts given in evidence, *amounts to nothing less than murder*. In this case there was no accident; there was no sudden or violent provocation; nor was there any attempt made on the part of the prisoner to apprehend the supposed ghost.—He went and thought himself entitled to kill that person; and with a degree of rashness, which the law would never allow, he killed another person. The crime would admit of alleviation or excuse, and might be denominated manslaughter, if some of these cases which he had before enumerated had occurred, namely, such as authority from the law, or self-defence. With what view the prisoner fired he knew not, but certainly it was with a great deal of rashness. In his defence he had imputed his conduct to apprehension and fear, but what had been the consequence, the death of an innocent and unoffending person. All the Jury had to consider in the case, was the veracity of the witnesses, if they believed them, they would find the prisoner guilty. Whatever else might be drawn from the case was fit for a higher tribunal. His Lordship then recapitulated the evidence for the prosecution and the prisoner, and observed, that the character which had been given of him would be of no avail here, however painful, they must do their duty, and in conformity to the sacred oath which they had taken, give a verdict according to the facts laid before them, under sanction of the law."

The Jury retired for upwards of one hour, and on their return delivered a Verdict of—*Guilty of Manslaughter*.

The Lord Chief Baron informed them, that the Court could not receive such a verdict, and they were bound by the solemn obligation which they had taken, to decide according to the facts. If they believed the evidence, their verdict must be *guilty*; or if they discredited the witnesses, they would *acquit* the prisoner. The law he had clearly

laid down, and by that they must abide. It was not for them to assume the King's prerogative, and mitigate the punishment.

Mr. Justice Rooke was of the same opinion ; and

Mr. Justice Lawrence enlarged upon the arguments of the Chief Baron, saying the prisoner could have no right to destroy Millwood. It was in evidence that the sister of the deceased heard the prisoner call out to her brother to stop, or he would shoot him, and immediately the gun was discharged. The law laid down, that in cases of felony, where a person stands charged as a felon, and proper persons are sent to apprehend him, and he escapes, after being in custody, and runs away, and the party from whom he escapes shoots and kills him, that person is deemed, in the eye of the law, guilty of murder. Mr. Justice Forster has laid it down, that if a person trips another's heels, and he thereby meets his death, then such person is guilty of manslaughter ; but if he uses a deadly weapon, then he is guilty of murder. In this case it was evident that the gun was discharged so near that the gunpowder blackened the unfortunate man's face. The Jury were to recollect the oaths they had taken, and administer that justice which the safety of society demanded.

The Recorder perfectly agreed in the doctrines laid down by the other Learned Judges, and desired the Jury to reconsider their verdict, who, turning round in their box, almost instantly pronounced the prisoner *Guilty of Murder*.

The Lord Chief Baron told the Jury, that he should report the case immediately to his Majesty.

The Recorder thought the Jury had very properly found him guilty. The law of God, which ought to be written in the hearts of all men, had declared, " That whosoever sheddeth human blood, by man shall his blood be shed." He then passed the usual sentence.

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The prisoner stated his age to be 29. He was dressed in black, and conducted himself throughout the trial with decent firmness. During the time he remained at the bar, his countenance did not appear to express much agitation, until the Jury left the box. Upon the return of the Jury, he appeared still more agitated; and particularly so, when he was pronounced guilty of murder. While the awful sentence was passing upon him by the Recorder, he supported himself with difficulty, and was led out of the Dock by Mr. Kirby's assistant, overwhelmed with the horrors of his situation. Mr. Dignum, of Drury Lane Theatre, sat by him, and was extremely affected; he wept, clasped his hands together, and suffered the greatest agitation. Several of his relations were also present, and apparently in great distress. The Sessions House was crowded in every part by nine o'clock, and the Yard was filled with an anxious multitude, all making inquiry, and interested in the fate of the prisoner.—He was as usual taken back to Newgate; but at seven in the evening, a respite arrived for him, till his Majesty's pleasure should be known.

With respect to the fate of this unfortunate man, though we do not pretend to state our opinion against that of the Jury, the sentiments of the majority of the people, unreservedly ascribe the respite of Smith, to the possible presumption in the breast of the Judge, that the Jury, after having returned a verdict of manslaughter against the prisoner, should have declared him not guilty of murder, when they reconsidered the verdict.—And if the Jury were out an hour and twenty minutes in the first instance, when they returned the verdict of manslaughter; the few minutes they occupied the second time, when they brought in that of wilful murder, must, to common apprehensions, appear rather too short. However, having given in our preceding pages, a faithful detail of this important trial and singular verdicts, we now proceed to a retrospective history

of the circumstances some months preceding this catastrophe, containing the particulars of the persons engaged in the imposition, and an impartial description of these disturbers of the public peace.

So far back as October last, it is well known, that first rumours of a ghost were in circulation in the neighbourhood, near the church; which is thus accounted for. It was then reported, that a mad woman was in the habit of disturbing the neighbours, by perambulating the church-yard and other walks, in strange and uncouth dresses, which, after a little time, was discovered by Mr. Moody, of the Six Bells, who well knew his face, to be nothing more than a youth belonging to Mr. Kilberton, neighbouring butcher, who, by way of frolic, and to plague the maid his fellow-servant, had dressed himself in women's clothes, in which he frequently appeared in the church-yard and other places. Being reprimanded by Mr. Moody and others, and the ill consequences which might attend being pointed out, he desisted from the practice altogether. Notwithstanding, another supposed phantom soon sprang up, and was seen *all in white*, at various places. This ghost also was so clever and nimble in its retreats, that they could never be traced, till one evening, when Mr. Brazier, a chimney sweeper, going through the lower part of Church-lane, and the night being very dark, was in his turn alarmed at the appearance of this supposed spectre; and as he related the story the next morning, seems he stood still some moments before he durst proceed. However, having a stick in his hand, he extended it to arm's length, and advancing towards a tree, against which he saw the object, he was induced to exclaim—Ghost! whatever you may be, pray be civil.—But as he still continued advancing with a slow pace, instead of penetrating a body of thin air, he found his stick in contact with the clothes of a female, who proved to be a Miss G——, your



young lady of Hammersmith, with her companion. After this second discovery, nothing of the kind was seen or heard of in this quarter, excepting what has been related by Thomas Groom, a servant to Messrs. Burgess and Winter, brewers.—He, a stout able man, asserted for a truth, what he related upon the trial, of being nearly choaked by the rude caresses of one of the phantoms which he met in the church-yard.—He did not keep his bed, as it is reported in the newspapers, but he was several days before he got the better of the fright.

An old proverb says, “The third time generally pays for all:” Accordingly, the next disturber of the peace, made its appearance not in the church-yard, but lower down, towards Beaver, Black Lion, and Plough and Harrow Lanes, which served it as a retreat when pursued, from the high road. A drummer belonging to the Chiswick Volunteers, an inhabitant of Hammersmith, and a rat-catcher by his profession, was one of the first that was panic-struck by this new spectre.—The next was a clerk to Mr. Cromwell the brewer, who thought he saw a supernatural appearance about five o’clock one morning in Plough and Harrow-lane, and was considerably alarmed. The pretended spectre, on Thursday the 29th of December, made a more public appearance; for as Girdler, the watchman, came out of the house of Mrs. Samuel, No. 2, Queen’s-place, adjoining Beaver-lane, an apprentice boy belonging to Graham the shoemaker, ran across the road towards him, dreadfully frightened, at what he supposed to be a ghost! In consequence of this, the watchman looking towards the opposite side of the road, on the left hand of the pump, was witness to an object all in white. Approaching the spot where it stood, he observed some person divest himself of a sheet or tablecloth, he could not distinguish which, wrap it up under his coat, and run away.

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Being dark, this person was soon out of sight.—Girdler followed, but saw nothing.—He therefore went to the White Hart, and inquired if any strange person was just come in there.—While Girdler was going by, the pretended ghost, it is supposed, hid himself behind Mr. Hill's house; but leaving the spot in Girdler's absence, he was seen by some of Mr. Hill's family, who observed a corner of the cloth hanging below his coat.

While he stood near the pump, he was also seen by Mrs. Steward, and her servant, at No. 4, Teresa Terrace, who were much alarmed, till it was generally known, next day, that the pretended ghost was an impostor. This appearance caused much discussion; and as it was a species of imposition that had then been put in practice three times successively, with very short intervals, it may be admitted, as a very powerful incentive to that provocation, which Smith, as well as others, may be supposed to have felt on the occasion; and which, no doubt, prompted him to the commission of that rash act, which terminated in the death of an inoffensive man, totally unconnected with any impostor whatever.

A day or two after Smith was committed to prison, on John Graham, a shoemaker, who resides in Dorvell's-row, to his shame, confessed that he was the person, who, in the last instance, on the 29th of December, had dressed himself in a sheet, as he said, to terrify his apprentice, who had been in the habit of scratching the walls of the house and otherwise teasing his master's children upon the subject of ghosts and apparitions.

A young woman, named Sarah Francis, servant to Mr. Brookes, of Westeroft-place, being at Graham's house, judged it to be a good opportunity to put his plan in execution. Sending the boy home with her, with an intent to meet him as he came back, in his supernatural capacity

capacity ; he dressed himself in the meanwhile for that purpose, and waited for the apprentice, in the manner represented by our Engraving.—But this opportunity would not have occurred to him, had not the one armed postman, who lodged in Graham's house, been than in bed ; as he generally had the office of seeing this young woman home when she happened to come that way.—But though Graham has acknowledged this to be his first offence, his mind must, upon reflection, be considerably hurt, at what has lately occurred.

This Mr. Graham, it is to be noticed, was known as a serious person, a constant attendant, and one of the first singers in Trinity Chapel, and always bore an excellent character before.—We have since heard a rumour that he means to leave his house ; and some circumstances having transpired, have increased the dislike the foregoing affair has naturally occasioned.

Among others, we are told, that a few days after the exhibition at the pump, Graham meeting Girdler, he said in a jeering tone, “ Were not you very much frightened the other night ? ” To which the other replied, “ No—he was not—but whoever the ghost was, he will go to hell, die when he will ; ” and immediately left Graham to enjoy his own feelings.—But possibly, Mr. Graham might think the pains he took, and his singing at the funeral of poor Millwood, would be some reparation for the folly in which he had been so deeply implicated. The report that a lady of Brooke Green, had also died in consequence of the appearance of a spectre, we are happy to find is totally unfounded ; she having received her fright from a person in a state of intoxication. And the report of a figure dressed in a skin with horns, together with that of cutting the traces of the Hammersmith coachman's horses, have no foundation in fact ; but owe their rise to newspaper fabrication.

## WONDERFUL ESCAPE.

**A** PRIVATE information having been received by Mr. Bond, that Sylvester Godlia, one of the persons concerned in the late forgery on the Bank of Portugal, and who was sent thither a few months ago with Gillington and Farrell, against whom he was a principal witness, had escaped out of the prison at Lisbon, and had been seen in the neighbourhood of Bethnal-green ; two of the officers were yesterday morning sent in search of him, and who apprehended and brought him before Mr. Bond and Sir Wm. Parsons, at Bow-street, when he made a sad confession of the means used for his escape out of the prison at Lisbon, which he effected by an old nail he found in his cell, and a chain with which he forced up a plank in the floor, and made his way through it to another dungeon, where he found a cutlass, which enabled him to open a door, and having engaged the sentinel placed near the door, in his favour, they both went off together ; that he was seven weeks in making the aperture in the floor, and he was forced to act with the greatest caution to elude the observation of the guard that brought him his victuals, when putting his cloak over the spot, and sweeping the dungeon himself, he contrived the piece of plank cut out, to fix in at that time ; he concealed himself at an English woman's house, at a place called Bonisiras, and then went on board the Lord Nelson privateer, and after cruising about ten days, was cast away at Vigo, in Spain, and remained eight hours in the sea ; that the cramp taking him, he clung to a piece of wood, and in that situation, almost senseless, was taken up by a Portuguese vessel, which also saved the rest of the crew of the privateer, except four who were drowned, and who landed them at Vigo ; that undergoing many hardships by land, he got to Bilboa, and from thence to England by a Spanish vessel bound to Cork ; but which, on account of the  
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the damage she had sustained at sea, put in at Ilfracombe, in Devonshire. He was committed to Tothill-fields Bridewell. Godlia is a remarkable good swimmer, and famous for remaining under water a long time; he was the person employed to dive for a quantity of the forged Portuguese notes that had been sunk in the Thames, near Lambeth, and who succeeded in recovering them. He is a Maltese by birth. Gillington, Farrell, and Joseph De Banon, were confined in the same prison with him at Lisbon, but had not been tried when he came away.

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Curious Display of the GALVANIC TROUGH.

WITH respect to the property of metals, Mr. Wilkinson is amply convinced, that gold and zinc, form the most powerful Galvanic combination. He has lately illustrated these principles; giving the preference to the trough, and proceeding, by experiments, to evince its wonderful powers. Four troughs, hung on swivels, each containing fifty plates, and eight inches in diameter, the weight of each trough being between two and three cwt. were charged with a mixture, consisting of one gallon of nitrous acid, to nineteen gallons of water. These are so arranged, as to communicate with two brass rods under the lecturer's table, which communicate with brass pillars upon the top of the table. A piece of harpsichord wire, four feet in length, being rested upon the two pillars, was in an instant red-hot, fused, and fell upon the table in the form of red-hot balls, which retained their heat for a surprising length of time. Wires of silver, brass, and copper, were placed in the same manner, and with similar results. But, when five or six feet of steel wire was so placed, it did not fuse, although its whole extent was rendered red-hot, and remained so long as the contact was preserved. Platina, a metal known to be indestructible in the most powerful

furnace, when exposed to this astonishing principle, was rapidly ignited, and fused into a spherical form. A diamond, placed in a piece of charcoal, was instantaneously consumed. But the following experiment exhibited the most beautiful phenomenon we ever witnessed:—Two pieces of charcoal, in the form of pencils, were placed in the circuit, and instantly a rapid inflammation followed, forming the most brilliant light ever yet artificially produced. The shadows of all surrounding objects were strongly defined, as if a sun was formed between the two charcoal points. The light approached the nearest to it, intense solar light of any we ever saw. When an Argand lamp was placed near it, the light of the lamp appeared small and obscure, as a distant rush-light. Those who have seen brilliant deflagrations in oxygen gas, may form some idea of it, yet but faintly, so extremely beautiful its appearance.

There were various other pleasing phenomena, produced by the Galvanic principle; after which, Mr. Wilkin announced his intention of giving (in the second lecture) a series of experiments, to shew its power as a *chemical* agent, as well as its influence on animals; an account of which we shall, on a future day, communicate to our readers.

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#### CURIOUS ANTIQUITIES IN AFRICA.

At the last meeting of the Antiquarian Society, we read a letter of Mr. Jackson, on the ancient *Utica*, which was next in extent and magnitude to *Carthage*, and in the same gulph. Here Mr. J. visited the subterraneous vault in which the ceilings were covered with bats of enormous size, called by Virgil *harpies*, which being disturbed; left their places, and nearly extinguished the flambeaux, and but for a lanthorn, the curious visitors might have been lost

in the dark. In the same place, Mr. J. found foxes, burrowing in the under-ground ruins. The air in these caverns was oppressive, but by firing pistols was much cleared, and became more respirable.



*A recent and striking INSTANCE of SAGACITY in a DOG,  
nearly approaching to human!*

*London, January 23, 1804.*

ON Saturday, January 21, Thomas Tweed, apprehended in Old-street-road, charged with stealing a box from a person named Scott; being examined at the Public-Office in Worship-street, it appeared that Tweed was drinking in the Pitt's Head public-house, Old-street, when a small terrier dog entered, and seeing the prisoner, instantly flew at him. The circumstance was so marked, as to excite the observation and suspicion of the landlord, who knowing the dog to belong to Scott, he sent for him; and Scott, on his arrival, recognized the coat which Tweed wore, to be one of the articles which had been stolen from him. He was taken into custody, and the pawnbroker's tickets which were found in his possession, led to the discovery of several of the other articles.

On Monday, Jan. 24, Thomas Tweed underwent a final examination, charged upon the oath of Thomas Scott, with breaking open his box; the property being sworn to, the prisoner was committed for trial.

Since this occurrence took place, several persons have made considerable offers for the dog. The owner, however, has not thought proper to accept of any which have been made him, at least till the trial has taken place.—That the dog should not be stolen in the interval, it has been found necessary to keep him tied up. The master of the dog, it seems, was in the habit of using the public-house; and though the dog had frequently been in the house before, the manner in which he singled out the robber,

## 84 THE BOILING WATER-SPOUTS OF ICELAND.

ber, had something in it uncommon ; for holding his nose close to the skirt of his coat, and growling all the while, would not move from the spot, which exciting the admiration of all present, led to the immediate discovery of the offender.



### THE BOILING WATER-SPOUTS OF ICELAND ;

*Commonly called the Geysers.*

THE principal of these is found in the neighbourhood of Scallholt, the capital of the place ; and it was very lately visited by Mr. Olafsen, a native of that country, and Member of the Academy of Sciences at Copenhagen. Taking a friend with him, he says,—“ the moment we arrived at the Geyser, the water filled the bason, and overflowed on all sides. Soon after a subterraneous noise was heard, the usual signal for the gushing of the water. It then began to spout in an instant ; but did not rise above 60 feet height. This spouting ceased suddenly, but was frequently renewed after a few minutes interval ; its violence diminished also, till the bason was quite empty. In this state it continued for a moment, but as the water is hot, its vapour and heat prevented us from seeing the bottom. By means of a plummet, we however contrived to measure the depth of the bason, and found it 72 feet ; its diameter at the orifice, or opening, 57 ; and at or near the bottom only 18, so that it seemed to terminate like a funnel. After throwing our plummet, in hopes of sounding some of the holes that afforded a passage to the water, the lead had sooner reached the bottom, than a body of boiling water spouted up from the rock ; but happily did us no harm. This encouraged us to throw it in again, but another spout of water obliged us to retreat in haste ; while our guide was terribly alarmed, because it is the opinion of the Icelanders, that any man visiting these mysterious places, will incur the displeasure of the powerful spirits that reside there.”



them. The air being agitated ever so little in the small openings at the bottom, it deranges the ordinary course of the water, and causes it to rise immediately with violence. To fathom the small openings at the bottom, we repeatedly tried in vain; nor could we divine the cause of our miscarriage.

After these spoutings, the great Geyser remained quiet the whole night; the water in the meanwhile rose gradually, and the bason was filled about four in the morning. To try the force of the spout, we continued near the place, and threw several flags and other stones into the bason. At length the spoutings were announced by a hollow noise underneath us, like the distant reports of a cannon. Five reports followed, each louder than the other. At the same time we felt the earth shaking and heaving, as if it would burst.

In each successive spouting also, the water was thrown to a greater height than the time preceding, while the flags and stones which we threw into the bason, were darted up, broken in a thousand pieces, and were carried higher than the pillars of water, which always terminated in a point.—From a motive of caution, we stood to windward of the smoke; at every spouting, the water in the bason was raised, and though it overflowed every side of the crater or bason, on the north side, it fell into a little valley, and formed a rivulet; which, though at a good distance from the fountain-head, would severely burn the feet of any animal that passed it.

There is a mountain called Langfell, near the Geyser, about 70 fathoms in height. The general height of the spouts is 60; but the inhabitants said, when a storm, or rainy weather is expected, they will rise to the full height of the Langfell. The spoutings in all, lasted about ten minutes; and there was an interval of three seconds between every subterraneous report that announced them;

so that the total number at this time was about two hundred. The water of the Geyser, is supposed to come from the neighbouring mountains. There is a tradition, that before the present spring existed, there were other spouts in the neighbourhood, which, from their singular violence, were also called Geyser, but that an earthquake destroyed these, and at the same time produced the water-spout now known by that name.

The hot water of the Geyser converts the stalks of plants and little pieces of wood into a hard and pale-coloured stone. Even in the rock itself, from which the spring issues, petrified stalks of plants may be found, with bones of sheep, horse-dung, all transmuted; and in a petrification of the small leaves of the birch-tree, the fibres were distinctly visible. Among the inferior water-spouts near the great spring, some of them have remarkable qualities. One of them named *Scyder*, is called a dry spring, because its tunnel contains no water, but emits a thick smoke; its heat is so intense, that the neighbours employ it to dress their victuals, which they say is done with ease and dispatch; and that the food while doing, contracts no strange or smoky taste. There is two hot-wells in the neighbourhood, called *Akrahver*; in throwing the sounding lead into one of them, the water instantly sunk a foot and a quarter, while trying the same experiment upon the other, it overflowed on all sides. Several of the natives affirmed that they had seen birds swimming in these hot-wells, made like a mallard; the body of a brown colour; the eye encircled with a white ring, very visible. In fact, they even go so far as to say, that these birds have been seen to dive in the hot water! In swimming, the legs and bills of these birds, armed with a callous skin, might endure the heat; but in diving, it would be impossible. It is well known, that owing to the property of the blood, sea-birds cannot dive; so that these birds, if they really pos-

as that faculty, must be of an amphibious class; and hence the discovery of them, would be a very great desideratum in Natural History. As yet their existence may be very fairly questioned. In all these hot-springs, the degree of heat is generally the same. In the water, Fahrenheit's thermometer rose to 182 degrees; out of it the smoke and vapour near the surface, stood at 90. Several springs were so much agitated, that the thermometer cannot be introduced. The water in this quarter, however, is somewhat hotter than that of any other springs in Iceland."

*Pardon of FRANCIS SMITH, for killing T. MILLWOOD;*

See Page 65 of the present Number.

In consequence to the satisfaction of the people at large, he received a pardon on Wednesday the 25th instant, upon condition of remaining in prison one twelvemonth; and thus it appears, that the intent of the Jury's first verdict, has been very properly acted upon.

*New and accurate DISCOVERIES upon the PEAK of TENERIFFE.*

M. CORDIER, in May last, 1803, ascended to the summit of this mountain, on a scientific survey. He found the height of the Peak to be 1901 toises above the level of the sea. The crater, which is of an elliptic form, is about 1200 feet in circumference, and 110 in depth; its edges are perfectly steep in the inside, and consists of a snow-white earth, the result of the decomposition of the blackest and hardest vitreous and porphyritic lava—crystals of sulphur covered all the surrounding rocks. M. Cordier slid to the bottom of the crater, from whence issued a warm sulphureous vapour, proceeding through innumerable crevices, from, he supposes, the depth of several leagues, and retaining a great intensity of heat. The thermometer, exposed in a crevice, speedily rose to 80 degrees, and would have risen higher had the length of the tube admitted; the vapour

vapour consisted solely of sulphur and water, perfectly insipid, without containing, as was supposed, sulphureous acid, soda, or hydrogen gas.

M. Cordier contradicts, in the most decided terms, the current opinion as to the intensity of the cold, the weakness of spirituous liquors, and the difficulty of respiration on the Peak—he did not experience the least inconvenience from the cold vapours, or rarity of the air; as he ridicules the report respecting the appearance of the sun's disk being seen from this elevated spot.

M. Cordier was three hours on the summit of the Peak the snow in the channels cut in the mountain by the lava which on his ascent was hard, had become thawed on his descent, so far, that in moving over it, he repeatedly sunken a foot or two; the guide clambered up and down the rock and was horrified at the temerity of his companion, in venturing on the snow, which probably covered abysses of immeasurable depth.

#### MAD FOXES ON THE BORDERS OF SWITZERLAND.

Accounts from hence, dated Dec. 21, 1803, say—"The number of this species is lately said to have become so numerous in the Valais country, that the natives have given them the name of *Renards enragés*; they approach the houses of the inhabitants in broad day, and attack both man and beast: only one man, however, has yet been bitten. The Officers of Health have already dissected some of these animals, and have found all the symptoms of madness in the process. To ascertain the fact beyond dispute they lately confined some dogs and a pig, which being wounded by these furious animals, the symptoms that followed, have been closely observed; but whether they exactly resemble those of the hydrophobia, does not yet appear.

Since the abovementioned alarm has gone forth, the Swiss Government, who seem to have no doubt of the fact, have issued a monition, stating, that in the districts of Morsey and Cossany, where these animals have been most frequently seen, as there is a probability that the hares also may have been affected, it will be advisable not to eat any of the latter for the present; and in the interim, gun-keepers and others, are strictly forbidden to bring any hares to their tables.



## ECCENTRIC OBITUARY.

**A** Mr. EDWARDS, a respectable Dyer, of Sherrard-street, Golden-square, was interred on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at Lambeth Church. By his will, he directed that his funeral procession should stop at the Magpies, in Bridg-street, Westminster, and the mourners be regaled with a *gallon of porter*, which they were to drink at the door of the house; they were then to proceed on a *long trot* along the bridge to the Jolly Sawyers in Lambeth Walk, there to have another gallon of beer; from thence to the grave, where, after his interment, a *pint of gin* was to be drank by them over his grave, *wishing him a pleasant journey!* The request was literally complied with.

Mr. JOHN BARKER, formerly a Farmer, near Bawtry, in Yorkshire, died lately.—Though possessed of considerable landed property, some time before his death he was constantly complaining of poverty; and a very short time ago, actually borrowed six guineas to relieve his exigencies. Immediately after his death, 1000 guineas were found in the seat of his armed-chair, and two bags containing 500 each, upon which was written the word *sound*, meaning good weight, with several other sums, besides £500 in Bank notes, and a considerable quantity of silver in his bureau.

*Wonderful Discovery of a MURDER, after the Body had been  
buried thirty Days.*

[Communicated by CAROLUS.]

The most extraordinary Discovery of a Murder committed upon the Body of Mrs. Joan Norkett, as it appeared on Evidence, at a Trial at Hertford Assizes, before Lord Chief Justice HYDE, the 4th Year of King Charles the First.---Attested by Serjeant MAYNARD.

**T**HE case, or rather the history of a case that occurred in Hertfordshire, I thought good to report here, (though it happened the 4th year of King Charles the First,) that the memory of it may not be lost, by miscarriage of my papers, or otherwise, I wrote the evidence that was given, which I and many others also did hear; and I wrote exactly to what was deposed at this trial at the Bar, in the King's Bench; viz.

Joan Norkett, wife of Arthur Norkett, being murdered, the question was, how she came by her death? The Coroner's inquest, on view of the body, and depositions of Mary Norkett, John Oakham, and Agnes his wife, inclined to find Joan Norkett, *Felo de se*; for they informed the Coroner and the Jury, that she was found dead in her bed, and her throat cut, and the knife sticking in the floor of the room: That the night before she was so found, she went to bed with her child, now Plaintiff in this Appeal, her husband being absent, and that no other person (after such time as she was gone to bed,) came into the house, the examinants lying in the outer room, and they must needs have seen or known if any stranger had come in. Whereupon the Jury gave up to the Coroner their verdict, "that she was *Felo de se*."

But afterwards, upon rumour among the neighbours, and their observation, divers circumstances, which manifested that she did not, (nor according to those circumstances) could possibly murder herself; thereupon the Jury

(whose verdict was not drawn into form by the Coroner, desired the Coroner, that the body which was buried, be taken up out of the grave, which the Coroner assented to: and thirty days after her death, she was taken in the presence of the Jury, and a great number of persons; whereupon the Jury changed their verdict.

Some persons that were tried at Hertford Assizes, were convicted; but so much against the evidence, that the Coroner let fall his opinion, "That it was better that an innocent man were brought, than so foul a murder should escape unpunished." And PASCH. 4 Car. they were tried on the same day, which was brought by the young child against the mother, grandmother, and aunt, and her husband Oakham. I believe because the evidence was so strange, I took particular notice of it, and it was as followeth:—After the matter mentioned were related, an ancient and grave man, Minister to the parish, where the fact was committed, being sworn to give evidence according to the oath, deposed, That the body being taken up out of the grave thirty days after the party's death, and lying on a bier, and the four Defendants present, they were required each of them to touch the dead body. Oakham's wife fell on her knees, and prayed to God, to shew tokens of her innocence, or to some such purpose (as her very words I forgot). The parties did touch the dead body, upon the brow of the dead, which was before of a dead and carrion colour, (that was the verbal expression, *inimis*, of the witness,) began to have a dew, or gentle moisture arise upon it, which increased by degrees, till the sweat ran down in drops on the face, and the brow turned changed to a lively and fresh colour, and the *dead* *opened one of her eyes, and shut it again*; and this opening of the eyes was done three several times. She then thrust out the ring, or marriage finger, three times, and pulled it in again and the finger, and dropped

blood from it on the grass. Hyde (Nicholas), Chief Justice, seeming to doubt the evidence, asked the witness, "Who saw this besides you?"—1st Witness—"I cannot swear what others saw, but, my Lord, I believe the whole company saw it; and if it had been thought doubtful, proof would have been made of it, and many would have contested with me." Then the witness observing some admiration in the auditors, spoke thus:—"My Lord, I am Minister of the parish, long knew all the parties, but never had any occasion of displeasure against any of them, nor had to do with them, nor they with me; but as I was Minister, the thing was wonderful to me; but I have no interest in the matter, but as called upon to testify the truth, which I have done."

The witness was a reverend person, as I guess about 70 years of age; his testimony was delivered gravely and temperately, but to the great admiration of the auditory. Whereupon applying himself to the Chief Justice, he said, "My Lord, my brother here, is Minister of the next parish adjacent; and I am sure saw all done that I have affirmed." Whereupon that person was sworn to give evidence, and did depose in every point; viz. the sweating of the brow, the changing of the colour, opening of the eyes, and the thrice motions of the finger, and drawing it in again; only the first witness added, that he dipped his finger in the blood that came from the dead body, and swore, he believed it was really blood. I conferred afterwards with Sir Vowell, Barrister at Law, and others, who all concurred in this observation; and for myself, if I were upon oath, can depose, that these depositions (especially the first witness) are truly reported in substance.

The other evidence was given against the prisoner, viz. against the grandmother of the Plaintiff, and against Oakham and his wife, that they confessed they lay in the next room to the dead person that night, and that none came into  
the



the house, till they found her dead next morning; therefore, if she did not murder herself, they must be the murderers; and to that end further proof was made.—First, that she lay in a composed manner in her bed, the bed-clothes nothing at all disturbed, and her child by her in the bed.—Secondly, that her throat was cut from ear to ear, and her neck broken; and if she first cut her throat, she could not break her neck in the bed, nor *e contra*.—Thirdly, there was no blood in the bed, saving, there was a tincture of blood on the bolster whereon her head lay; but no other substance of blood at all.—Fourthly, from the bed's head there was a stream of blood on the floor, which run along on the floor, till it ponded on the bending of the floor, to a very great quantity, and there was also another stream of blood on the floor at the bed's feet, which ponded also on the floor, to another great quantity; but no continuance or continuation of blood of either of those two places, from one to the other, neither upon the bed, so that she bled in two places severally: And it was deposed, turning up the mat of the bed, there were clots of congealed blood in the straw of the mat underneath.—Fifthly, the bloody knife, in the morning, was found sticking in the floor, a good distance from the bed; but the point of the knife, as it stuck in the floor, was towards the bed, and the haft from the bed.—Lastly, there was a print of a thumb and four fingers of a left-hand on the dead person's left hand.

Hyde, Chief Justice, to the Witness—"How can you know the print of a left-hand from the print of a right-hand in this case?"

Witness.—"My Lord, it is hard to describe; but if it please that Honourable Judge to put his left-hand on your left-hand, you cannot possibly place your right-hand in the same posture; which being done, and appearing so, the  
Defendants

Defendants had time to make their defence ; but gave no evidence to any purpose.

The Jury departed from the box, and returning, acquitted Oakham, (the aunt's husband,) and found the other three guilty ; who being severally demanded what they could say why judgment should not be pronounced ? —Each of them said nothing ; but I did not do it—I did not do it. Judgment was then given, and the grandmother and husband were executed ; but the aunt had the privilege to be spared from execution, being with child.



CAROLUS.

#### A PROGRESSIVE WATER-SPOUT.

ON the 5th of May, 1752, about seven in the evening, a water-spout fell from the clouds on Deeping Fen, in the county of Lincoln, and took its progress in a very indirect manner, to the county bank or dike, whence it carried every thing that lay loose thereon, such as straw, hay, and stubble, violently before it. When it came into the middle of Flowbit Wash, where it was first seen, it was a dreadful sight to behold this moving meteor there fixed for several minutes, spouting out water to a considerable height, perhaps two yards ; so that it seemed as if the law of nature was inverted, to see water ascending, and all the time attended with a terrible noise.—Upon the second rout, it made to the river ; on its arrival there, it discovered its length with some certainty, for it reached from side to side, the river being about three yards over ; in its marching along it drove the water before it in a rapid torrent, tearing in its passage a fishing-net : when it arrived at the church, it there stopped again, but not above a minute, whence it arose, and made its passage through the space that is between the church and the parsonage house, without doing hurt to either ; so that however natural the cause may be, yet surely its progression could not be without the

the direction of him who rides in the whirlwind, and directs the storm. On its departing hence, the straw, hay, and stubble fell down upon the land in showers. This strange phenomenon ascended not far before it fell down again upon the land ; in passing through a small tract of seed turnips, it broke in its way the stems from the roots. A gate it forced from off its hinges, and a stone it broke to pieces, and when at a distance it looked like a pillar of smoke ; when it passed a little beyond Molton Chapel, it evaporated into a cloud, and was succeeded by a violent storm of hail, and after that of rain.



*Account of Two DWARFS and a surprising NEGRO, exhibited in this City, in December 1751 ;*

**A DWARF** from Glamorganshire, in his 15th year, two foot six inches high, weighing only 12lb. ; yet very proportionable.

John Coan, a Norfolk dwarf, aged 23, weighed last year, with all his clothes, but 34lb. ; and his height with his hat, shoes and wig on, was but 38 inches ; his body is perfectly strait, he is of a good complexion, and sprightly temper, sings tolerably, and mimicks a cock's crowing very exactly. A child 3 years 8 months old, of an ordinary size with his clothes on, weighed 36lb. ; and his height without any thing on his head was 37 inches 7-10ths, which, on comparison, gives an idea of the smallness of this dwarf.

A Negro, who, by a most extraordinary and singular dilatation and contraction of the deltoid and biceps muscles of the arm, those of the back, &c. clasps his hands full together, throws them over his head and back, and brings them in that position under his feet : this he repeats backwards or forwards as often as the spectators desire, and with the greatest facility.

## THE ORIGIN OF THE REAL ROBINSON CRUSOE.

As the *fabulous* History of ROBINSON CRUSOE, written by Daniel De Foe, has afforded so much entertainment to the public, for so many years past, and has proved uncommonly amusing, the *true* Account of the real Origin of that Story, with the sufferings of the adventurous person who gave rise to it, will, no doubt, add to the pleasing effect of your very interesting Miscellany.

Yours, &c. CURIOSA.

*Mr. ALEXANDER SELKIRK, who was originally Master of a Merchantman, in the Reign of King William the Third, having had a Dream, that the Ship he was on board of would be lost, he desired to be left on a desolate Island, in the South Seas, where he lived Four Years and Four Months, without seeing the Face of Man, the Ship being afterwards cast away, as he dreamed. He was afterwards miraculously preserved and redeemed from that fatal Place, by two Bristol Privateers, called The Duke and Duchess; that took the rich Aquapulco Ship, worth 100 Ton of Gold, and brought it to England.—Attested by most of the eminent Merchants upon the Royal Exchange.*

**I**N the voyage of the Duke and Duchess privateers belonging to Bristol, who took the rich Aquapulco ship, they came to an island called Juan Fernandez; where sending their pinnace on shore, she returned, after some time, bringing with her a man clothed in goat-skins, who seemed as wild as the goats themselves.

Being brought on board the Duke, he said, he had been on the island four years and four months, having been left there by Captain Stradling, in a ship called the Cinque-Ports, about the year 1705, of which ship he was master; and Captain Dampier, who was then with him, and now on board the Duke, told Captain Rogers, he was the best man then on board the Cinque-Ports, who immediately agreed with him to be a mate on board the Duke. His name was Alexander Selkirk, a Scotchman; and the manner of his being found there, was by his making a fire the night before, when he saw the two privateers aforesaid, judging them to be English, by which, judging it to be an habitable island, they had sent their boat to see; and so he came miraculously to be redeemed from that solitary and tedious

tedious confinement, who otherwise, in all probability, must have miserably ended his life there. He said, that during his stay there, he had seen several ships pass by, but only two of them came in to anchor, which he judged to be Spaniards, and retired from them, upon which they fired at him; had they been French, he said he would have submitted himself; but chose rather to hazard dying on the island, than to fall into the hands of the Spaniards in those parts, because he believed they would either murder him, or make him a slave in their mines. The Spaniards landed so near him, before he knew where they were, that he had much ado to escape; for they not only shot at him, but pursued him into the woods, where he climbed up to the top of a tree, at the foot of which they made water, and killed several goats just by, but went off without discovering him.— He told them, that he was born at Largo, in the county of Fife in Scotland, and was bred a sailor from his youth. The reason of his being left on this melancholy island, was a difference betwixt him and his captain, which, together with the ship being leaky, made him willing rather to stay there than go along with him at first, and when he was at last willing to go, the captain would not receive him. He had been, he said, on the island to wood and water, when two of the ship's company were left upon it for six months, till the ship returned, being chased there by two French South-sea ships. He had with him his clothes and bedding, with a firelock, some powder, bullets, and tobacco, a hatchet, a knife, a kettle, a bible, some practical pieces, and his mathematical instruments and books. He diverted and provided for himself as well as he could; but for the first eight months he had much ado to bear up against melancholy, and the terror of being left alone in such a desolate place. He built two huts with Piemento trees, covered them with

long grass, and lined them with the skins of goats, which he killed with his gun as he wanted, so long as his powder lasted, which was but a pound ; and that being near spent, he got fire by rubbing two sticks of Piemento wood together upon his knee. In the lesser hut, at some distance from the other, he dressed his victuals, and in the larger he slept, and employed himself in reading, singing psalms, and praying ; so that he said he was a better Christian while in this solitude, or than, he was afraid, he should ever be again. At first he never eat any thing till hunger constrained him, partly for grief and partly for want of food and salt ; nor did he go to-bed till he could watch no longer ; the Piemento wood, which burned very clear, served him both for firing and candle, and refreshed him with its fragrant smell. He might have had fish enough, but could not eat them for want of salt, because they occasioned a looseness, except craw fish, which are there as large as our lobsters, and very good : these he sometimes boiled, and at other times broiled, as he did his goat's flesh, of which he made very good broth, for they are not so rank as ours : he kept an account of five hundred that he killed while there, and caught as many more, which he marked on the ear and let go. When his powder failed, he took them by speed of foot ; for his way of living, and continual exercise of walking and running, cleared him of all gross humours, so that he ran with wonderful swiftness through the woods, and up the rocks and hills, as we perceived when we employed him to catch goats for us. We had a bull-dog, which we sent with several of our nimblest runners, to help him in catching goats ; but he distanced and tired both the dog and the men, caught the goats and brought them to us on his back. He told us, that his agility in pursuing a goat had once like to have cost him his life ; he pursued it with

so much eagerness, that he caught hold of it at the brink of a precipice, of which he was not aware, the bushes having hid it from him ; so that he fell with the goat down the precipice a great height, and was so stunned and bruised with the fall, that he narrowly escaped with his life ; and, when he came to his senses, found the goat dead under him. He lay there about twenty-four hours, and was scarcely able to crawl to his hut, which was about a mile distant, or to stir abroad again in ten days. He came at last to relish his meat well enough without salt or bread, and, in the season, had plenty of good turneps, which had been sowed there by Captain Dampier's men, and have now overspread some acres of ground. He had enough of good cabbages from the cabbage trees, and seasoned the meat with the bark of the Pimento trees, which is the same as the Jamaica pepper, and smells deliciously. He found there also a black pepper, called Malagita, which was very good to expel wind, and against griping of the guts. He soon wore out all his shoes and cloaths by running through the woods ; and, at last, being forced to shift without them, his feet became so hard, that he ran every where without annoyance ; and it was some time before he could wear shoes after we found him ; for, not being used to any so long, his feet swelled, when he came first to wear them again. After he had conquered his melancholy, he diverted himself sometimes by cutting his name on the tress, and the time of his being left and continuance there. He was at first pestered with cats and rats, that had bred in great numbers from some of each species which had got a-shore from the ships that put in there to wood and water. The rats gnawed his feet and cloaths, while asleep, which obliged him to cherish the cats with his goats flesh ; by which many of them became so tame, that they would lie about him in hundreds,

and soon delivered him from the rats. He likewise tamed some kids, and, to divert himself, would now and then sing and dance with his cats; so that by the care of Providence, and vigour of his youth, being now but about thirty years old, he came at last to conquer all the inconveniences of his solitude, and to be very easy. When his cloaths wore out, he made himself a coat and cap of goats-skins, which he stitched together with little thongs of the same, that he cut with his knife. He had no other needle but a nail, and, when his knife was wore to the back, he made others, as well as he could, of some iron hoops that were left ashore, which he beat thin and ground upon stones. Having some linnen cloth by him, he sewed himself shirts with a nail, and stitched them with the worsted of his old stockings, which he pulled out on purpose. He had his last shirt on when we found him in the island. At his first coming on board us, he had so much forgot his language for want of use, that we could scarce understand him, for he seemed to speak his words by halves. We offered him a dram, but he would not touch it, having drank nothing but water since his being there, and it was some time before he could relish our victuals. He could give us account of no other product of the island than what we have mentioned, except small black plums, which are very good, but hard to come at, the trees which bear them growing on high mountains and rocks. Pimento trees are plenty here, and we saw one sixty feet high, and about two yards thick; and cotton trees higher, and near four fathom round in the stock. The climate is so good, that the trees and grass are verdant all the year. The winter lasts no longer than June or July, and is not then severe, there being only a small frost and a little hail, but sometimes great rains. The heat of the summer is equally moderate, and there is not much thunder or tempesta-



ous weather of any sort. He saw no venomous or savage creature on the island, nor any other sort of beast but goats, &c. as above-mentioned; the first of which had been put a-shore here on purpose for a breed by John Fernando, a Spaniard, who settled there with some families for a time, till the continent of Chili began to submit to the Spaniards; which, being more profitable, tempted them to quit this island, which is capable of maintaining a good number of people, and of being made so strong that they could not be easily dislodged. Ringrose, in his account of Captain Sharp's voyage and other Buccaneers, mentions one, who had escaped ashore here, out of a ship which was cast away with all the rest of the company, and says, he lived five years alone, before he had the opportunity of another ship to carry him off. Capt. Dampier talks of a Moskitó Indian, that belonged to Capt. Watlin; who, being hunting in the woods, when the Captain left the island, lived there three years alone, and shifted much in the same manner as Mr. Selkirk did, till Capt. Dampier came hither, in 1684, and carried him off. The first, that went ashore, was one of his countrymen, and they saluted one another, first by prostrating themselves by turns on the ground, and then by embracing. But, whatever there is in these stories, this of Mr. Selkirk I know to be true; and his behaviour afterwards gives me reason to believe the account, he gave me, how he spent his time, and bore up under such an affliction, in which nothing but the Divine Providence could have supported any man. By this one may see, that solitude, and retirement from the world, is not an unsufferable state of life, as most men imagine, especially when people are fairly thrown into it unavoidably, as this man was; who, in all probability, must otherwise have perished in the seas, the ship, which left him, being cast away not long after; and few of the company escaped.

escaped. We may perceive, by this story, the truth of the Maxim, That *necessity is the mother of invention*; since he found means to supply his wants in a very natural manner, so as to maintain his life; though not so conveniently, yet as effectually, as we are able to do with the help of all our arts and society. It may likewise instruct us, how much a plain and temperate way of living conduces to the health of the body, and the vigour of the mind; both which we are apt to destroy by excess and plenty, especially of strong liquor, and the variety, as well as the nature, of our meat and drink; for this man, when he came to our ordinary method of diet and life, though he was sober enough, lost much of his strength and agility.

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*Upon the ANCIENT MODE, and PROGRESS of BUILDING
DWELLING HOUSES in ENGLAND.*

AS one of the plates of our present number contains a view of the Cross in Cheapside and some of the antique houses of the Citizens, undoubtedly looked upon as perfect models in their time, some account of the progress of fashion in that art may not be disagreeable to the reader, whose time or avocations may not admit of researches among the cumbrous volumes of antiquity.

Though the extent or convenience of houses is a general indication of the condition of the inhabitants within, it is an undoubted fact, that notwithstanding the inferiority of the domestic buildings in England to those of the continent, was evident even down to the reign of Queen Elizabeth, no nation upon earth fed or fared better than the English. On the contrary, it was said of the common people among the French by Sir John Fortescue, in his treatise *de Laudibus Legum Angliæ*; "that they, the French drink water—they eat apples with bread
right

right brown, made of rye. They eat no flesh but seldom; a little lard, or the entrails or heads of beasts, slain for the *nobles* and *merchants* of the land*. And they be compelled so to watch, labour and grub in the ground for their sustenance that their nature is much wasted—they grow crooked, are feeble and not able to fight.”

But to return to our ancient mode of building in old time says Harrison, in his description of England, prefixed to Hollinshed, the houses of the Britons were slightly set up with a few posts, several hurdles, with a stable and all offices under one roof, the like is to be seen in the fenny countries and northern parts unto this day, where, for lack of wood they are enforced to continue this ancient manner of building.—For want of stuff they can use no studs at all but only frank posts, with here and there a girding, to which they fasten their splints, or saddles and then cast it all over with thick clay to keep out the wind. Certainly this rude kind of building made the Spaniards in Queen Mary’s days, express their surprize, but chiefly when they saw what rare diet was used in many of these homely cottages, and which caused one of note among them to say “These English, have their houses made of sticks and dirt, but generally fare as well as the king.”

It was not till the reign of Henry VIII. that glazed windows came into general use among the wealthier sort. Somewhat later than that period both yeomen and farmers were content with windows of lattice or net work.—Rooms also, that were provided with chimnies are mentioned as a luxury by the author of *Pierce Plowman*, and Harrison treats them as such by his remarks as follows,
“ Now

* Here it is to be noted that the practice of eating of offal, so necessary for the lower orders of people when meat is at a very high price, was first introduced into this country by the French emigrant Weavers that came over here, as persecuted Protestants in the reign of William and Mary.

“ Now have we many chimnies and yet our tenderlings complain of rheums, catarrhs, and colds in the head. Formerly we had none but *rere dosses* a kind of iron back, or brick coating against a wall made to resist fire. Then our heads did not ache; for as the smoke was supposed to be a sufficient hardening for the timbers of the house, so it was thought a better medicine to keep the good man and his family from the ague, a disorder at that time, but little known.”

In houses partly made of rafters and clay as abovesaid, it is not to be supposed that the furniture was very costly. Our fathers, says the above author, yea and we ourselves have often lain upon straw pallets, or rough mats, covered only with a sheet, and coverlets made of *dag swain* or *hop harlots*, and a good round log under their heads instead of a bolster or pillow. And if a man seven years after his marriage, purchased a matrass or a flock bed adding thereto a sack of chaff to rest his bones upon, he thought himself as well lodged as a lord of the town, who perchance lay seldom on a bed of down or whole feathers. Servants were content with an upper sheet only, having none underneath to save them from the pricking straws that often ran through the canvas of the pallet.

In the external part of the building, the progress of improvement was from clay to lath and plaister, such as distinguish the ancient houses in Cheapside, represented in our plate, and such as are still to be seen in Holywell Street, the Strand, &c. At first rude rafters only formed the cielings; those of mortar and lime were a later custom. Country houses were generally covered with shingles or thin boards, but slates and tiles were soon found necessary in towns and cities to prevent damages by fire. These latter buildings were very solid and consisted of many stories projecting over each other so far that in
narrow

narrow lanes, &c. the windows on each side nearly met. The walls in wealthy houses were decorated either with tapestry, arras, or painted cloths, exhibiting divers histories, or herbs, beasts, &c. Till pewter was introduced, both yeoman and peasants put up with wooden trenchers and platters. Silver plate, china, and delft have succeeded : and, generally speaking, the conveniencies within, have kept pace with the improvements without.

To render this sketch complete, it may be proper to observe, that the cumbrous brick building with casement windows, succeeded those of lath and plaister, while the more modern mode at once unites elegance and capaciousness.



Ancient and Modern History furnish accounts of desperate undertakings by individuals; but none exhibits so resolute and determined an adventurer as Colonel Blood; who, if his pursuits had been directed to a laudable purpose, would have intitled his memory to have ranked with the greatest names, both as to courage and plans of operation. Cromwell himself was not possessed of greater requisites to obtain a great name; and did not come so near the crown, as this desperate of all rogues,

COLONEL THOMAS BLOOD.

THIS daring ruffian was notorious for seizing the person of the Duke of Ormond*, with an intention to hang him at

On the 6th of December, 1670, an assault was made in the open streets upon the Duke of Ormond, of a very singular nature, whether we consider the boldness of the attempt, or the villany and barbarity of the design. The chief contriver and manager of this monstrous enterprise, was one Thomas Blood, a blacksmith's son in Ireland; a fellow of a fearless courage, but of that worst sort, which is equally undaunted at dangers or at crimes.

He had signalized himself once before by a bold attempt in which he rescued one of his wicked comrades in Yorkshire from the sheriff's men, as they were leading him to the gallows. After this he laid a design in Ireland to surprise the Castle of Dublin, and the magazine there, and to usurp the government : but this being discovered by the Duke of Ormond the night before it was to be executed, some of his accomplices were taken, and executed as traitors. The deaths of these, Blood and the other surviving rogues, bound themselves by a solemn

at Tyburn, and for stealing the crown out of the Tower. He was very near being successful in both these enterprises: it was with no small difficulty that the duke escaped, and the crown was wrested from his hands.

The cunning of this boldest of all thieves was equal to his intrepidity. He told the king, by whom he was examined, that he had undertaken to kill him; and that he went with that purpose to a place in the river where he bathed; but was struck with so profound an awe upon sight of his (naked) majesty, that his resolution failed him, and he entirely laid aside his design: that he belonged to a band of ruffians equally desperate with himself, who had bound themselves by the strongest oaths to revenge the death of any of their associates. Upon this he received the royal pardon, and had

solemn oath to revenge upon the person of the Duke. That nobleman lived at Clarendon House, and was observed by Blood to go usually late home, and attended with only two or three footmen, which gave that villain occasion to lay a plot for the working his intended revenge.

To this end, himself, with five or six more of his associates, well mounted and armed, waited at the Bull Head Tavern at Charing-Cross, till the Duke came by, and then all took horse and galloped after him. They overtook him near his own gate, knocked down his footmen, took him out of his coach, forced him up behind one of the horsemen, to whom they tied him, and were riding away with him. The coachman and servants crying out, the porter came forth, and seeing what was done, pursued them. The Duke strove so violently to free himself, that at last he got loose, and threw himself with the villain he was tyed to, off the horse. The rest turned back, and finding it impossible to carry him away, discharged two pistols at him; but it being so dark, that they could not see to take aim, they missed him both times. The porter and other assistance coming up, they were glad to make haste away, leaving the Duke much bruised with his fall. Their design, as it was afterwards found, was to carry him to Tyburn, and there to hang him with a paper pinned to his breast, expressing the reasons of this monstrous piece of villany. The king offered a thousand pounds for the discovery of any one concerned in it. But with so horrible a fidelity were these wretches linked together, that so great a reward produced no discovery; and they had been for ever unknown, had not the attempt on the crown led Blood to the confession of this attempt on the Duke.

a hand-

a handsome pension assigned him of 500l. per year. He was now no longer considered as an impudent criminal, but as a court favourite; and application was made to the throne by the mediation of Mr. Blood*, Ob. 24 Aug. 1680.

The particulars of his attempt on the crown and regalia in the Tower of London, is related by Mr. Edwards himself, at that time, keeper.

About three weeks before he put his intended plan in execution, he came to the Tower as a stranger, to see the curiosities, habited as a clergyman, with a long cloak, cassock, and canonical girdle, and brought a woman with him, whom he called his wife, though it afterwards appeared his real wife was ill at the time in Lancashire: his pretended wife after seeing the crown, &c. feigned a sudden indisposition, and desired Mr. Edwards to procure her some spirits, who immediately caused his wife to fetch some; after which, appearing to be somewhat recovered, Mrs. Edwards invited her up stairs, where she pretended to repose herself for some time on a bed; after which they departed, with great thanks for the attention received.

In three or four days after, Blood called on Mrs. Edwards, with a present of four pair of white gloves; and having began the acquaintance, made frequent visits to improve it, accompanied by his pretended wife, who pro-

* Dr. Walter Pope, in his "Life of Bishop Ward," informs us, "that Blood, being of a sudden become a great favourite at court, and the chief agent of the dissenters, brought the bishop a verbal message from the king not to molest them; upon which he went to wait on his majesty, and humbly represented to him, that there were only two troublesome nonconformists in his diocese, whom he doubted not, with his majesty's permission, but that he should bring to their duty; and then he named them. These are the very men," replied the king, you must not meddle with: to which he obeyed, letting the prosecution against them fall."

fessed she could never sufficiently repay the kindness received.

Blood, in one of his visits to the Edwards's, observed that his wife could discourse of nothing but the kindness of the good people in the Tower; adding she had thought on a plan to cement a lasting friendship between them, which was; Mr. Edwards having a daughter at that time marriageable, that a match should take place between her and a pretended nephew of his, who had from two to three hundred pounds a-year.

This proposal was easily assented to by old Mr. Edwards, who invited the person to dine with him, which was readily accepted by our adventurer, who taking upon him to say grace, performed it with great devotion, and concluded a long winded one, with a prayer for the king, queen, and royal family. After dinner he went to see the rooms, and observing a handsome pair of pistols, he expressed a great desire to buy them, to present to a young lord, his acquaintance; but it was afterwards thought but to disarm the house against his intended depredation.

At his departure, which was with a cononical benediction of the good company, he appointed a day and hour to bring his young nephew to his mistress; and it was that very day that he made his attempt, viz. the 9th of May, about seven in the morning, Anno 1673.

The old man was got up ready to receive his guest, and the daughter had put herself into her best dress to entertain her gallant; when behold Parson Blood, with three more, came to the jewel-house, all armed with rapier blades in their canes, and every one a dagger and a pair of pocket-pistols. Two of his companions entered with him, and the third staid at the door, it seems for a watch. The daughter thought it not modest for her to come down till she was called, but sent her maid to view the

the company, and bring her a description of her intended husband. The maid conceived that he was the intended bridegroom who staid at the door, because he was the youngest of the company, and returned to her young mistress with the character she had formed of his person.

Blood told Mr. Edwards, that they would not go up stairs till his wife came, and desired him to shew his friends the crown to pass the time. But as soon as they entered the room where the crown was kept, and the door as usual shut behind them, they threw a cloak over the old man's head, and clapped a gag into his mouth, which was a great plug of wood, with a small hole in the middle to take breath; this was tied with a wax leather round his neck, at the same time they fastened an iron hook to his nose, that no sound might pass that way.

When they had thus secured him, they told him their resolution was to take the crown, globe, and sceptre; and that if he would quietly submit, they would spare his life; otherwise he was to expect no mercy.

He thereupon made as much noise to be heard as possible; on which they knocked him down with a wooden mallet, and told him if he would lay quiet, they would still spare his life, but if not, on the next attempt to make a noise they would kill him; but he straining to make a greater noise, they gave him nine or ten strokes with the mallet, as appeared afterwards by the bruises on his head, and stabbed him in the belly.

Mr. Edwards was at this time almost eighty years of age, and appearing not to breathe, one of them said he is dead, i'll warrant him; but coming a little to himself, he judged it prudent to lay quiet.

One of them named Parrot concealed the globe in his cloaths, Blood held the crown under his cloak, and the third was about to file the sceptre in two, it being too long

long to put in a bag they had brought for the purpose. But before they could accomplish this, young Mr. Edwards, who had been into Flanders, providentially returned to England, and arrived at the Tower to visit his aged father at the very time they were thus employed; and coming to the jewel-house observed their centinel, and told him if he had any business with his father, he would go up stairs and inform him. In the mean time the centinel gave notice of the son's arrival, on which they hasted away with the crown and globe, not having time to file the sceptre; and as they did not think of tying the old man's hands, he immediately got up, and cried Treason! Murder!

His daughter on hearing him, ran out upon Tower Hill, and cried Treason! the crown is stolen! and Blood, with Parrot, making more than common haste, were observed to jog against each other, which caused them to be suspected. By this time young Edwards, with a Captain Beckman, went in pursuit of the villains, and the alarm being given to the warder at the drawbridge, he attempted to stop them, but Blood coming up to him, discharged a pistol, through fear of which he fell, though not hurt, and they got safe to the little ward-house-gate, where a soldier, who had served under Cromwell, seeing them shoot at the warder, though he stood centinel at the last gate, suffered them through cowardice to pass to Tower Hill, and were proceeding to St. Catharines, commonly called the Iron Gate, where their horses were in waiting; crying all the way they ran, Stop the Rogues! They being thought innocent by the disguise of Blood's canonical robes, till Captain Beckman coming up to them, Blood discharged his second pistol at his head, but he stooping down avoided the shot, and seized the rogue who had the crown under his cloak, yet had he the impudence to struggle a long time, till the crown was fairly wrested

wrested from him, which when he loosed, he said it was a gallant attempt how unsuccessful soever; for it was for a crown. Parrot was taken before Blood by a servant of Captain Sheaburn. Some innocent persons had near suffered for the guilty; as young Edwards, overtaking a man who was blooded by the scuffle, was going to run him through as his father's murderer, but was stayed by Captain Beckman, who exclaimed, he is none of them!

Hunt, Blood's son-in-law, leaped on his horse, with two more of the set, and rode away; but a cart, standing empty in the street, chanced to turn short, and Hunt run his head against a pole that stuck out, but recovering his legs, was remounting; but being known by a cobbler, who was running to enquire the disaster, said, "This is Tom Hunt, who was in that bloody attempt on the Duke of Ormond." A constable being on the spot, immediately seized him, and carried him before Justice Smith, who, upon his confident denial of being the same Hunt, was about to discharge him; but the hue and cry coming from the Tower, he was committed to safe custody.

Young Edwards proposed to Lieutenant Rainsford to mount some of his soldiers upon the horses that were left, and send them to follow the rest that escaped; but he bade him follow them himself, it was his business, and led the horses into the Tower as forfeited to the lieutenant.

Hunt, as hath been said, was son-in-law to Blood, and trained by him to desperate undertakings.

Parrot was a silk-dyer in Southwark; and in the civil wars had been Major General Harrison's lieutenant.

In the struggle for the crown, the great pearl and a fine diamond fell out, and were lost for a time, with some smaller stones. But the pearl was found by Catherine Maddox, a poor sweeping woman to one of the warder's, and the diamond by a barber's apprentice, and both faith-
full

fully restored. Other smaller stones were by several persons picked up and brought in. The fine ruby belonging to the sceptre was found in Parrot's pocket; so that not any considerable thing was wanting. The crown only was bruised, and sent to repair.

The king was immediately informed of the particulars, and ordered a proper examination of all the parties; but being advised to hear the examination himself, Blood appeared to be so little intimidated, that the king was induced not only to pardon him and his associates, but granted him a pension of *500*l.* per annum*; as Blood declared, there were hundreds of his friends bound by solemn engagements to revenge the death of any of their fraternity, not excepting even the life of his majesty.

Mr. Edwards had a grant of *200*l.** and his son *100*l.** Though many persons solicited a greater reward for the services of the old keeper and his son, no farther notice was taken of them, though the old gentleman was so much distressed as to sell his order on the treasury of *100*l.** for *50*l.** in order to pay his surgeon for drugs, &c. with the best part, and dying within a year and a month after he had received the wounds, did not greatly enjoy the little remnant of reward for his loyalty.



AN EXTRAORDINARY EARTHQUAKE IN CHINA.

ON the 19th of June, 1718, an earthquake extended through several inland provinces of China, in some of which the shocks were slight, and consequently neither long nor terrible, while, in other places, the gates and walls of cities were thrown down and laid in ruins; but it was dreadful beyond description at Yong-ning-tchin, which was entirely swallowed up, without leaving the least mark either of men, houses, or animals; while several mountains were thrown over a plain to the distance of  above 

above two leagues. The earth opened near the town of Tong-ouei, and the mountains falling, rolled over the town from north to south; so that, in an instant, the whole town was in a manner overwhelmed: the treasury, the public granaries, the houses, prisons, prisoners, all were buried in the earth; and of the governor's whole family, only himself, a son, and a valet escaped. The plain rose in waves to the height of six fathoms or more; and so terrible was the desolation, that scarce three persons in ten were saved.

A RECOVERY OF SIGHT.

JAMES ORR, of the parish of Comber, in the county of Down, in Ireland, died about the year 1752, or 53, in the ninety-third of his age. Eight years before his death he recovered his eye-sight (having been blind twenty years) so perfectly as to be able to read a small print without spectacles.

The ancient and present state of Down, 1754.

An Account of JOHN FERGUSON of Killmellford in the shire of Argyle in Scotland, who lived Eighteen Years on Water.

ABOUT the year 1745 he happened to overheat himself on the mountains, in pursuit of cattle, and in that condition drank excessively of cold water from a rivulet, near which he fell asleep; he awaked twenty-four hours after in a high fever; during the paroxysm of the fever, and ever since that time, his stomach loaths and cannot retain any kind of aliment, except water, or clarified whey. Archibald Cambell of Ineverliver, to whom this man's father was tenant, carried him to his own house, and locked him in a chamber for twenty days, and supplied

himself with water, at no greater quantity in a day than an ordinary man would use for common drink; and at the same time took particular care that it should not be possible for his guest to supply himself with any other food; yet after that space of time he found no alteration in his vigour or visage.

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THE CRUEL MIDWIFE, WITH HER HORRIBLE PUNISHMENT!

IN the year 1673, an eminent midwife in Paris had, by her great skill in her profession, obtained the favours of the greater part of the inhabitants—the genteeler of whom she delivered at their own houses; but for those, whom either inclination, or a worse cause, made it necessary to be secretly delivered, she had provided accommodations at her own house, to which great numbers resorted.

It happened that a gentleman who lived next door to the midwife had observed, that although many pregnant women went to be delivered at her house, yet very few children were brought out, and his suspicions of foul play towards the infants increasing daily; he at length consulted with some of his neighbours, who joined him in requesting a warrant from a magistrate to search for some plate, which they pretended to have lost. In order, however, not to alarm the midwife, they began their ~~sham~~ search at the distance of nine or ten houses from her's.

When they came, however, to her abode, she affected the utmost unconcern, desiring the gentlemen not to hurry themselves, but to proceed in their search, with all possible circumspection;—they did so—and on their coming to the necessary-house, they put down a hook, which they had brought with them on purpose, and took up the body of a child newly destroyed. They continued the search, till they had found no less than sixty-

two

two children—some of whom were in great measure decayed; but many of them appeared to have been deposited in that place within a very few weeks at the most.

The consequence of this was, that the midwife was immediately apprehended, and brought to trial, and condemned on the fullest evidence, besides her own confession. She was sentenced to be executed in the following manner, and she suffered accordingly on the 28th day of May, 1673.

“ A gibbet was erected, under which a fire was made, and the prisoner being brought to the place of execution, was hung up in a large iron cage, in which were also placed sixteen wild cats, which had been caught in the woods for the purpose.—When the heat of the fire became too great to be endured with patience, the cats flew upon the woman, as the cause of the intense pain they felt.—In about fifteen minutes they had pulled out her intrails, though she continued yet alive, and sensible, imploring, as the greatest favour, an immediate death from the hands of some charitable spectator. No one, however, dared to afford her the least assistance; and she continued in this wretched situation for the space of thirty-five minutes, and then expired in unspeakable torture.”

At the time of her death, twelve of the cats were expired, and the other four were all dead in less than two minutes afterwards.

However cruel this execution\* may appear with regard

\* It has been suggested by some writers that were the crime of murder punished in this country by a more exemplary mode than now practised, our history would not be so often disgraced with that most horrid offence; but it has been wisely answered, that while our laws are justly acknowledged the mildest in the world, unnecessary and lingering torments are as wisely dispensed with; as the conscience of every offender in this way must be evidently more poignant than that of the greatest outward torture!

to the poor animals, it certainly cannot be thought too severe a punishment for such a monster of iniquity, as could calmly proceed in acquiring a fortune by the deliberate murder of such numbers of harmless innocents.

The above story is strictly true in every part of it, and as well known in Paris, as those of Mary Blandy, or Eliz. Jefferies in England.

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AN INSTANCE OF GRATITUDE.

SIR William Fitzwillians the elder, being a merchant-taylor, and servant sometimes to cardinal Woolsey, was chosen alderman of Broadstreet ward in London, 1506. Going afterwards to dwell at Milan in Northamptonshire, in the fall of the cardinal, his former master, he gave him kind entertainment at his house in the country; for which, being called before the king, and demanded how he durst entertain so great an enemy to the state? His answer was, "That he had not contemptuously, or wilfully done it; but only because he had been his master, and partly the means of his greatest fortunes." The king was so well pleased with his answer, that, saying himself had few such servants, he immediately knighted him, and afterwards made him one of his privy-council.

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WONDERFUL ESCAPE.

**A** DUTCH seaman being condemned to death, his punishment was changed, and he was ordered to be left at St. Hellen's island. This unhappy person representing to himself the horror of that solitude, fell upon a resolution to attempt the strangest action that ever was heard of. There had that day been interred in the same island an officer of the ship: the seaman took up the body out of the coffin; and having made a kind of rudder of the upper board, ventured himself to sea in it. It happened fortunately to him to be so great a calm that the ship lay  
immovaeble



immoveable within a league and a half of the island; when his companions seeing so strange a boat float upon the waters, imagined they saw a spectre, and were not a little startled at the resolution of the man, who durst hazard himself upon that element in three boards slightly nailed together, though he had no confidence to find or be received by those who had so lately sentenced him to death. Accordingly it was put to the question, whether he should be received or not; some would have the sentence put in execution, but at last mercy prevailed, and he was taken aboard, and came afterwards to Holland; where he lived in the town of Horn, and related to many how miraculously God had delivered him.

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THE ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF PIERCY.

MALCOLM, king of Scotland, having laid siege to Alnwick Castle, which being unable to resist him, must have inevitably fallen into his hands, as no relief could be expected; whereupon a young Englishman, without any other arms than a slight spear in his hand, at the end whereof hung the keys of the castle, rode into the enemy's camp, and approaching near the king, slooping the lance, as if he intended to present him with the keys of the garrison, but at the same time made such a home thrust at the king, that piercing him into his brain, through one of his eyes, he fell down dead, and the bold undertaker escaped by the swiftness of his horse.

From this desperate action, he took upon himself the name of Percie, or Pierce-eye. And from him descended the ancient earls of Northumberland.

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TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND WONDERFUL  
MUSEUM.

SIR,

According to promise, I now send you more Miscellaneous Articles, which you will find no ways inferior to my former accounts under the same title,  
and

and as well authenticated; which leaves me no room to doubt but they will procure a place in the Scientific and Wonderful Museum, which will oblige many besides,

Your Occasional Correspondent

Nottingham, February 4th, 1804.

D. B. L.

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A MARVELLOUS TEMPEST OF THUNDER

OCCURRED in the year 1558, in the sixth of Queen Mary, about four months before her death, viz. on the 7th of July within a mile of Nottingham, was a marvellous tempest of thunder, which as it came through two towns, Lenton and Wilford, the former on the north, the latter on the south side of the River Trent, exactly opposite, and each one mile from Nottingham, beat down all the houses and churches, the bells were cast to the outside of the church-yards, and some webs of lead 400 feet into the field writhen like a pair of gloves. The River Trent running betwixt the towns, the water with the mud in the bottom was carried a quarter of a mile, and cast against the trees; the trees were pulled up by the roots, and cast twelve score foot distance; also a child was taken forth from a man's hands two spear length high, and carried an hundred foot, and then fell, wherewith his arm was broke, and so died; five or six men thereabout were slain. There fell some hail-stones that were fifteen inches about.—Vide Deering's Hist. Nottingham.

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TWO INSTANCES OF FECUNDITY.

**J**UNE 21, 1778, the wife of Thomas Robinson, Rope-maker, Ouse-bridge-end, York, was delivered of three girls all lively. They had been married ten years, and had eleven children, seven of whom were born within the last four years and nine months preceding the above time.

December

December 20, 1779, Mrs. Smithers of Red Lion Street, was delivered of two boys and a girl; and what is very remarkable, that she was fifty years of age, and never had a child before.

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*Singular Instance of a Woman's Recovering after having
Swallowed about Eighty Pins.*

IN the month of November, 1779, as a young woman named Mary Spelmore (who lived in St. Peter's parish, Derby) was hanging out some linen to dry, she had the shocking misfortune to swallow a great number of pins, which she had put in her mouth, by a sudden emotion of the line on which the cloaths were hung. A surgeon being immediately sent for, and proper means used, she voided several that day, and continued to throw up more or less for many days after the accident happened; but what is very extraordinary, notwithstanding the violent retching fits with which she was attacked with, she never voided more than one at a time, though the number amounted in four days to 76, all of which came upwards, excepting three only. Some of the pins were remarkably long ones; and at first her convulsions were so strong, that it was with difficulty several persons could hold her. But she being continually troubled with a pain in her side, arms, and other parts of her body, shortly after entered the hospital at Nottingham (part of which hospital is for the use of the poor of Derby,) there gathered a tumor in her left side and near her left shoulder. These were suppurated and opened, and several pins came out by these wounds. She was after this discharged from the hospital perfectly cured. It was about five months from her first swallowing the pins to her being pronounced cured.

A REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF ABSTINENCE FROM FOOD.

ANN, the daughter of Jonathan Walsh, of Harrowgate, in Yorkshire, at the age of twelve years, entirely lost her appetite, and she had not eaten of any kind of solid victuals for several years after, and her support was nothing but half a pint of wine and water, which served her three days; notwithstanding so small a quantity, she enjoyed to her death a good state of health, which happened in the year 1778.



TWO REMARKABLE AND PROVIDENTIAL ESCAPES FROM DEATH.

AT St. Blazey, in Cornwall, a very singular accident and providential escape occurred in that place in the year 1792.—Mr. Potter of that place determining to get rid of a large mischievous mastiff, took him to a mine shaft of tremendous depth, and having tied a stone round the animal's neck, attempted to throw the creature therein; when the dog instantly seizing Mr. Potter by the collar, they both tumbled into the pit together, and notwithstanding the amazing height they both fell, neither was killed; but one of Mr. Potter's legs was unfortunately so much hurt, as to render amputation necessary; however, he shortly after recovered. The accident was discovered about sixteen hours after, entirely through the loud and dismal howlings of the dog.

October 1796.—As a lad, named Clarke, was at work in a gravel pit at Rowborough, Somerset, the timber gave way, and he was buried near eleven fathoms under ground. A number of men immediately set to work to dig for him, supposing he was crushed to death; when they had dug down to him, to their astonishment, notwithstanding he had remained under the earth near thirty-two hours, he was taken out without experiencing the least injury.

SINGULAR PHENOMENON.

ON Sunday, the 25th of December, 1796, about ten o'clock in the morning there appeared floating in the atmosphere minute particles of ice, which in about an hour became condensed, and fell in sleet, covering the surface of the ground with ice. The cold was intense that morning; the thermometer was 16 degrees below the freezing point. This phenomenon was never before seen but in very high latitudes.—Observations on the above were taken near Mansfield, in the County of Nottingham.

D. B. L.

TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY'S SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

If you think the following Letter of the great Dr. Franklin to M. Dubourg, on the Prevailing Doctrines of Life and Death, worth your acceptance to be inserted in your truly Valuable Museum, it is wholly at your service.

Your's, &c.—A LOVER OF FACTS

DEAR SIR,

YOUR observations on the causes of death, and the experiments which you propose for recalling to life those who appear to be killed by lightning, demonstrate equally your sagacity and your humanity. It appears that the doctrines of life and death, in general, are yet but little understood.

A toad buried in sand will live, it is said, till the sand becomes petrified; and then, being inclosed in the stone it may still live for we know not how many years or ages. The facts which are cited in support of this opinion are too numerous and too circumstantial not to deserve a certain degree of credit. As we are accustomed to see all the animals with which we are acquainted eat and drink, it appears to us difficult to conceive how a toad can be supported in such a dungeon; but if we reflect that the necessity of nourishment, which animals experience

rience in their ordinary state, proceeds from the continual waste of their substance by perspiration, it will appear less incredible that some animals in a torpid state, perspiring less because they use no exercise, should have less need of aliment; and that others, who are covered with scales or shells, which stop perspiration, such as land and sea-turtles, serpents, and every species of fish, should be able to subsist a considerable time without any nourishment whatever. A plant, with its flowers, fades and dies immediately if exposed to the air, without having its root immersed in an humid soil, from which it may draw a sufficient quantity of moisture to supply that which exhales from its substance, and is carried off continually by the air. Perhaps, however, if it were buried in quicksilver, it might preserve for a considerable space of time its vegetable life, its smell, and colour. If this be the case, it might prove a commodious method of transporting from distant countries those delicate plants which are unable to sustain the inclemency of the weather at sea, and which require particular care and attention.

I have seen an instance of common flies preserved in a manner somewhat similar. They had been drowned in Madeira wine, apparently, about the time when it was bottled in Virginia to be sent to London. At the opening of one of the bottles, at the house of a friend where I then was, three drowned flies fell into the first glass that was filled. Having heard it remarked that drowned flies were capable of being revived by the rays of the sun, I proposed making the experiment upon these: they were, therefore, exposed to the sun upon a sieve, which had been employed to strain them out of the wine. In less than three hours two of them began by degrees to recover life. This commenced by some convulsive motions in the thighs, and at length they raised themselves upon their legs, wiped their eyes with their fore-feet, beat and
brushed

brushed their wings with their hind-feet, and soon after began to fly, finding themselves in old England without knowing how they came thither. The third continued lifeless till sun-set, when, losing all hopes of him, he was thrown away.

I wish it were possible, from this instance, to invent a method of embalming drowned persons, in such a manner that they might be recalled to life at any period however distant; for, having a very ardent desire to see and observe the state of America an hundred years hence, I should prefer to an ordinary death, the being immersed in a cask of Madeira wine with a few friends till that time, to be then recalled to life by the solar warmth of my dear country. But since, in all probability, we live in an age too early, and too near the infancy of science, to hope to see such an art in our time brought to perfection, I must, for the present, content myself with the treat which you are so kind as to promise me of the resurrection of a fowl or a turkey-cock. I am, dear Sir,

Your sincere friend,

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN.

To substantiate the doctor's opinion, the following will be found well worth preserving.

In 1683, Blondel reported to the academy at Paris that there were frequently found at Toulon, stones in which were oysters, good to eat.

In 1685, Cassini mentioned a fact of a similar nature, upon the authority of M. Duraffe, who had been sent ambassador to Constantinople, and who had assured him that he had found very hard stones in which were inclosed little fish, called *dactyls* or *razor-fish*; but the following appear to be at the least as surprizing, and are much more recent.

Some workmen in the quarries of Bourswic, in Gothia, having detached a block of stone, one of them broke it,

and found in it a living toad. It was attempted to cut out the part which bore the impression, but it fell into sand. This animal was of a grey-black colour, with its back somewhat spotted, appearing as if incrustated with small particles of the stone: the colour of its belly was brighter. Its eyes, which were small and round, sparkled with fire, from under a tender membrane, by which they were covered. They were of the colour of pale gold. When touched on the head with a stick, he closed his eyes, as if asleep, and re-opened them little by little, when the stick was taken away. Besides this, he had no motion. The aperture of his mouth was closed by a yellow membrane. Being pressed on the back, he ejected a clear water, and died. Under the membranes which covered his mouth, were found in the upper and lower jaws, two sharp incisive teeth, stained with a little blood.

Leprieux, a celebrated sculptor, assures us of his having seen in 1756, at Eccreteville, in a château belonging to M. Larivière-Resdo, a toad living within the hollow of a hard stone, in which he was confined; and facts of this kind are by no means singular.

In 1764, the workmen in the quarries of Savonnières, in Lorraine, came to inform the sagacious Grignon that they had found a toad in a block of stone at forty-five French feet below the surface of the earth. This celebrated naturalist immediately went to the spot; but, as he assures us, in his excellent work, entitled, *Memoires de Physique sur l'art de fabriquer le fer*, he found no vestige of the animal's prison. He saw a crack in the body of the stone, but no impression of the body of the animal. The toad which had been brought him was of the middling size, of a grey colour, and apparently in its ordinary condition. He was assured that this was the first he had found during thirty years in those quarries. The fact certainly deserved to be closely followed up; wherefore Grignon promised
recomp-

recompence to him that should find another, so inclosed in the stone that it could not get out.

In 1770, he was shewn one in two concave leaves of stone, in which he was assured it had been found; but, on examining the fact with scrupulous attention, Grignon found that the cavity was the impression of a shell, and, consequently, he thought himself bound to regard the fact as apocryphal. Nevertheless, in 1771, the same fact re-appeared on the spot, and became the subject of a curious memoir which was read by Guettard, to the royal academy of sciences at Paris. The following are the principal circumstances reported by that naturalist.

In levelling a wall which was known to have stood more than an hundred years, there was found, in the midst of a large block of stone, a toad, which, upon inspection, appeared to have only very lately died. No passage by which it might have entered the stone could be traced. It was presented to the academy in its recent state.

Various facts of this nature, but particularly this itself, and the observations made on it by Guettard, induced Herissant, who was then living, to pursue experiments adapted to the discovery of the truth.

On the 21st of February 1771, he inclosed three living toads in as many cells of plaster, fabricated in a trunk of fir, covered at all points with a body of mixed brick and plaster. On the 8th of April 1774, he opened the trunk, and found two of the toads living. That which occupied the cell in the centre was dead; but it was observable that this had been larger than the others, and very much straitened for room. A careful examination of this experiment led those who were witnesses of it to conclude, that those animals had been completely excluded from all communication with the exterior air, and heat, they had

had lived during the lapse of time in total privation of food.

The academy engaged this philosopher to repeat his experiment. After having withdrawn the dead toad, he enclosed the two living ones again, and deposited his trunk in the hands of the secretary of the academy, in order that that illustrious body might open it whenever it should think proper: but he was too much occupied with the subject to confine himself to this single experiment; he continued, therefore, the three following:

1. On the 15th of the next April, he enclosed, with minute accuracy, two living toads in a nest of plaster, covered with glasses, through which he could see the animals, and examine them every day. On the 9th of the subsequent month he carried this apparatus to the academy, and showed them one of the toads alive; but the other had died on the preceding evening.

2. On the same day, the 15th of the preceding April, he had enclosed two other living toads in another nest of plaster, but which was still better secured, with a funnel of glass. These animals were placed on a little sand; and by means of the funnel, at periods of eight days, he let fall three drops of water on their backs, being afterward careful to close the opening of the funnel with mortar.

3. He further enclosed another living toad in a jug, which he surrounded with sand, so as to deprive it of all communication with exterior air: this animal, which he presented to the academy at the same time with the others continued in health, and even croaked whenever her jug was shaken.

It is unfortunate that this naturalist was prevented by death from pursuing these experiments a sufficient length of time. His first, however, has established that two toads lived in health, during more than three years, in
a state

a state of total privation of all nourishment and exterior air.

We shall observe on this subject, that if these animals sustain abstinence during a period which, at first sight, appears marvellous, this faculty is given them, on the one hand, by a slow digestion, and, on the other, perhaps, by the nourishment which they derive from their skins. Grignon has actually observed to this purpose, that toads shed their skins several times during a year, and that they swallow them. A large toad; he tells us, sheds it six times in the space of a winter. In fine, those which, according to the relations above transcribed, may be imagined to have passed several ages without taking nourishment, have been in a state of total inaction, in a suspension of life, and in an atmosphere the temperature of which allowed no dissipation of their substance: hence they have had no need to repair any loss; and it appears certain that the moisture of the place has kept up that of the animal, so much only being requisite as might serve to prevent its destruction, by the drying of its parts.

Toads are not the only animals which have the privilege of retaining life during long continuance of fasting and exclusion from air. The two facts related at the commencement of this as shall furnish proofs, and they are strongly supported by the following:

There were found in Spain, in the midst of a block of marble, which a sculptor of Madrid was forming into a lion of the natural colour, for the royal palace, two living worms. These worms occupied two little cavities, neither of which had any issue, by which air could have introduced itself. They were to all appearance, nourished by the substance of the marble, for they were of the same colour. This fact was authenticated by Captain Ulloa, a celebrated Spaniard, who conducted the voyage

voyage made by the French academicians to Peru, to determine the figure of the earth. He asserted that he had seen the worms.

A scarabæus, of the species called *capricornus* was found alive in a piece of wood taken from the keel of a vessel lying in the harbour of Portsmouth. No opening could be discovered in the wood. Several considerations however render this fact suspicious.

We read in the public papers of Provence, for the 17th of June 1772, that a living adder was found in a block of stone of thirty French feet diameter, the centre of which it occupied. It was twisted nine times round itself, in a spiral line. It could not support the weight of the atmosphere, but died in a few minutes after it was taken from the stone. On examining the stone, not the least crevice could be discovered, through which it might have crept, nor the minutest opening through which it could have received fresh air, or inhale any sort of substance.

Misson mentions, in his travels in Italy, a living crab, which was found in the midst of a marble at Tivoli. Peyssonel, physician to the king, at Guadaloupe, causing a well to be dug at his house, the workmen found living frogs in the midst of beds of petrifications. Peyssonel, apprehensive of some fraud, descended himself into the well, caused the beds of rock and petrifications to be dug in his presence, and took out, with his own hands, green frogs, exactly similar to the common.

The following fact may also well demand a place in this collection: Vendron, director of the posts, at Dunkirk, wrote on the 16th of January 1776, that he had a very fine peacock, which had disappeared for some days; and that he had searched for it in vain throughout his house; that his yard being full of snow, to the height of four French feet, he had caused the snow to be carried

ried into the street (fearing when the thaw came on, it would inundate his cellars), and that his peacock had been found alive, confined under a heap of the snow. The animal, he adds, was entirely frozen: I set it before the fire, where it was thawed, and afterward gave it food: it has since done perfectly well. The author should have mentioned the length of the time during which the animal was lost, and that during which it had been buried under the snow.

Mr. Chaulton, a stone-cutter at Ramsey in Kent, in sawing a block of marble asunder, found therein a living toad, of a more than ordinary size, lodged in a cavity in the middle of the block. The cavity was pretty near the shape of the toad, but something larger; and the animal itself was of a dusky, yellow colour.

At Tivola, in Italy, some workmen, having cleft a large block of stone, found in the centre thereof, in a hollow space, a large sea-crab, which weighed four pounds, which they boiled and eat.

Alexander ab Alexandro assures us, that he found in the middle of a large block of marble, a wrought diamond; and in another piece, a considerable quantity of sweet scented oil:

Baptist Tulgosus reports a large worm to have been found in the middle of a flint.

At Chillingham in Northumberland, a live toad was found in the middle of a large block of stone, of which was made a chimney-piece; the hole being divided equally, and is still to be seen, each half at equal distance from the middle of the chimney-piece, at a gentleman's house in that neighbourhood.

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THE MEMORABLE CROSS IN CHEAPSIDE,

*With an Engraving.*

IN the first ages of christianity, a variety of crosses were  
Vol. II. S erected

erected in the highways and public places throughout Europe, as monuments of the sufferings the Saviour of mankind underwent. Many are still to be seen in Italy, France, Spain, the Netherlands, and some few in England. But the foundation of the crosses at Grantham, Wooborne, Northampton, Stony-stratford, Dunstable, St. Albans, Waltham, West-cheap, and Charing, were founded by Edward I. on the following occasion ;

On the death of Henry the Third, Edward the First was on an expedition in the holy land, and had been there above a year when his father died. When one *Anzazim*, a desperate Saracen, who had often been employed to him from their general, being one time, upon pretence of some secret message, admitted alone into the chamber, with a poisoned knife, gave him three wounds in the body, two in the arm, and one near the arm-pit, which were thought to be mortal, and would probably so have proved, had not his excellent and affectionate Queen Eleanor, daughter to Ferdinand the Third, king of Spain, at the hazard of her own life, sucked the poison from the wounds with her mouth, and thereby effected a cure. She, however, experienced no ill consequences from the poison ; but many years after, in a journey with Edward towards Scotland, she was taken ill, and died at Herdeby in Lincolnshire : in whose memory, and as monuments of her virtue and his affection, he caused the aforesaid crosses, with her statue, to be erected in all chief places where the corpse rested in the way to its interment in Westminster abbey.

Having stated thus the foundation of these crosses, we shall now confine ourselves to that of Cheapside, which occupies a place in this work, more from the remarkable transactions and occurrences, at different periods, that have distinguished it in our annals, than as to the singularity of its distinguished origin.

Cheapside

Cheapside Cross was first built in the year 1290, and stood at the end of Cheapside, next St. Pauls; from which it is called, by Stow, the Cross in West Cheap; which being, by length of time, greatly decayed, John Hatherly, Mayor of London, procured, in the year 1441, licence of King Henry the Sixth, in the 21st of his reign, to re-edify the same in a more beautiful manner, for the honour of the city; and had licence also to take up two hundred fodder of lead for the building hereof, and of certain conduits, and a common granary.

This Cross was then curiously wrought, at the charges of divers citizens. *John Fisher*, mercer, gave 600 marks towards it; the same was begun to be set up in 1484, and was not finished before the year 1486. The second of Henry the Eighth it was new gilt all over, in the year 1522, against the coming over of the Emperor Charles V. and was new burnished against the coronation of Edward VI.; and, in 1553, against the coronation of Queen Mary; and gilt again, in the year 1554, against the coming in of King Phillip. Since which time the said cross having been represented by divers juries, or quests of Wardmote, to stand in the highway to the hindrance of carriages, &c. as they alledged, but could not have it removed; it followed, that, in the year 1581, on the 21st of June, in the night, the lowest images round about the said cross, being of Christ's Resurrection, of the Virgin Mary, King Edward the Confessor, and such like, were broken and defaced. Whereupon proclamation was made, that whosoever would give information of the offenders thereof should have forty crowns; but nothing came to light. The image of the *blessed Virgin* at that time was robbed of her Son, and her arms broken, by which she staid him on her

knees; her whole body was also haled with ropes, and left ready to fall: but was, in the year 1595, again fastened and repaired; and, in the year 1596, about *Bartholomew-tide*, a male child, mishapen, as if born before its time, all naked, was laid in her arms; the other images remaining broken as before.

On the east side of the same cross, the steps being taken from thence, under the image of Christ's Resurrection, which was much defaced, was then set up a curious wrought tabernacle of grey marble; and, in the same an alabaster image of *Diana*, a woman, for the most part naked, and water, conveyed from the Thames, falling from her naked breasts for a time; but the same was oftentimes dried up.

In the year 1599, the timber of the cross, at the top, being rotted within the lead, the arms thereof bending, were in danger of falling, to the prejudice of passengers; and therefore the whole body of the cross was scaffolded about, and the top thereof taken down, intending, instead thereof, to set up a pyramid: but some of Elizabeth's counsellors sent letters to Sir Nicholas Mosley, then mayor, by her highness's express command concerning the cross, ordering the same forthwith to be repaired, and placed again as it formerly stood.

Notwithstanding the said cross stood heedless more than a year after; whereupon the said counsellors, in great number, meaning not any longer to permit the continuance of such a contempt, wrote to William Rider, then mayor, requiring him, by virtue of her highness's said former direction and command, without any further delay, to accomplish the same, her majesty's most princely care therein, respecting especially, the antiquity and continuance of that monument, and ancient ensign of Christianity, dated the 24th of December, 1600. After this a cross of timber was framed, set up, covered



covered with lead and gilt; the body of the cross downwards cleansed of dust, and the scaffold carried thence. About twelve nights following, the image of our lady was again defaced by plucking off her crown and almost her head, taking from her naked child, and stabbing her in the breast.

At the west end of Cheapside was some time a stone cross of greater antiquity than the time of Edward the First, which, by way of distinction, was called the Old Cross: and here, according to *Ralph Higden*, in his *Polichronicon*, was Walter Stapleton, Bishop of Winchester, treasurer to Edward II. brought by the burgesses of London, and beheaded in a most barbarous manner. This Old Cross stood and remained at the east end of the parish church, called *St. Michael in the Corn*, by Paul's-gate, near the north end of the Old Exchange, till the year 1390, the 13th of Richard the Second, in place of which Old Cross, then taken down, the said church of *St. Michael* was enlarged, and also a fair water-conduit erected, about the ninth year of Henry the Sixth.

It does not appear that Cheapside Cross underwent any repair, or was in any shape beautified from the year 1600, until its final destruction in 1643; when Puritanical principles so completely prevailed, that few remnants of antiquity, relative to the Romish persuasion, have escaped the wrath of their intemperate zeal\*. Innumerable images of the virgin and child, representations of the crucifixion, and the various passions of Christ, many of which

\* Though the Puritans were so anxious to demolish all outward representations of the miracles and suffering of Christ, they were extremely desirous to keep in remembrance his name, as under the cloak of that they might practise almost every enormity; thus in the baptism of their children is recorded a remarkable christian name:

“ If

which were of the most excellent workmanship; with a host of saints and symbols, fell a prey to the levelling party; and among others, not least valuable, we have to lament the *martyrdom* of those reliques of ancient times, the Crosses of Cheapside and Charing; who fell victims to the unbridled rage of about as enlightened a populace, as those who so eminently distinguished themselves in the memorable religious riot in 1780.

Cheapside Cross was ever held in great repute as a general rendezvous in party discontent; and like its coeval sufferer, that of Charing, must have witnessed many acts of justice inflicted on the daring innovators of the laws of their country; and although not regarded as a situation for general punishment of offenders, it has still to record some of a very particular and interesting nature: these punishments are however stated to have taken place at the standard in Cheap; but Strype, in his last edition of Stow's Survey, expresses great doubt of the situation of the old standard, and thinks it occupied the scite of the ancient Cross; as he instances that in the reign of Edward the Third, when Justings and Runnings, on horseback, were practised between the great Cross and the Conduit at *Sopar's-lane* End, there was no such standard, or other obstacle between them; neither was that street paved with hard stone as it now is.

But of the executions in Cheap in the year 1293, three men had their right hands cut off, for rescuing a prisoner arrested by an officer of the city: in the year 1381, Wat Tyler beheaded Richard Lyons, and others there: in the year 1351, the 26th of Edward the Third, two fishmongers were beheaded at the standard in Cheap; but we do not read of their offence: in the year 1399, Henry the

"If Jesus Christ had not come into the world thou hadst been damned"  
BAREBONE. This worthy was a brother of the celebrated Praise God Barebone, of notorious canting memory.

Fourth

Fourth caused the Blank Charters, made by Richard the Second, to be burnt there: in the year 1450, Jack Cade having gained possession of the city, sent to the Lord Scales to bring his prisoner, the Lord Say, from the Tower to the Guildhall, whither he had called the Lord Mayor with his brethren; before whom he caused the Lord Say to be arraigned, who craving to be tried by his peers, was forthwith taken from his keeper, carried to the standard in Cheapside, and there had his head chopped off; which, being pitched upon a pike, was born before him to *Mile End*, whither he went to have conference with the rebels of Essex; and by the way, meeting with Sir James Cromer, High Sheriff of Kent, who had lately married the Lord Say's daughter, he caused his head also to be struck off, and carried before him in derision.

There is several scarce pamphlets, extant, concerning Cheapside Cross, some of which bear a wood-cut representing the figure of the Cross as it stood just before its demolition; and others with the populace, soldiers, &c. pulling it down; but the most authentic view is that from *La Sere's* scarce book, containing a view of Cheapside, from which one view is taken, and the Entry of Mary de Medicis into London, on a visit to her son-in-law, Charles I. The body of the pamphlets in contradiction to their titles, give little or no historical relation to the origin or history of what it promises.

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*A Remarkable THUNDER STORM, with the Singular course
of the LIGHTNING.*

(Communicated by D. B. L. of Nottingham.)

ABOUT two o'clock in the afternoon of Thursday, the 21st of August, 1794, two very black clouds were seen towards the south west, which in their north-east course, appeared to attract each other; this attractive power in
these

these clouds was occasioned by their being highly charged with a contrary electricity, which burst out a violent explosion, as soon as the clouds came in contact; the vivid flashes of lightning followed each other in a quick succession, amidst a torrent of rain and hail; at this instant a ball of fire was seen to strike the top of a chimney in Mr. Wragg's house, * near Mansfield, in the county of Nottingham, where it was attracted by an iron cramp, from whence it descended to the roof, throwing down part of the chimney, and scattering the stones to a considerable distance. The lightning, after running nine yards along the roof, penetrated the ceiling of a garret, where it tore off a piece about seven feet in length, and near six inches in width; it was here attracted by another iron cramp in a sloping beam, from which it separated a piece near three feet in length, and about eleven inches in circumference: from this beam it forced its way through the floor to a gilt frame of a looking-glass in the drawing-room, where it burst open a tea-chest, melted a piece of lead in the inside the size of half-a-crown, and scattered a pack of cards to the other end of the room; a stream of the electric fluid appeared, by a black line on the floor, to have run ten feet to an iron fender. The lightning then took its course downwards to the parlour, where it ran round another gilt frame of a looking-glass, near to which Mrs. Wragg was sitting with a child in her lap, they both received a strong shock, which in all probability would have been fatal to them, had not a bell-wire, that hung over the glass, conducted the electric fluid to the bell in the passage: its course from thence is very extraordinary, for the bell in the passage from whence the electric fluid descended on the wall in a narrow stream to where it divided into two, was attracted by

* Mr. Curlis, grainer, now lives in the house.

the iron hinge of the street door, and split the wood to which the hinges was nailed; the passage of the electric fluid to the hinge was through a stone wall eleven inches thick; and the aperture it made was so small, that it would hardly admit a knitting needle; the other stream was attracted through the wall by an iron bar in the kitchen, where it spent its force, without doing any damage to the parlour.



EXTRAORDINARY DEATHS.

DIED on Monday, 23d of January, 1804, at Cowpen, Marlow Sidney, Esq. a remarkable eccentric character, in the 99th year of his age. For many years he had such an antipathy against medical gentlemen, that even in his last illness, he would not suffer any to attend him. He was very partial to the dress and company of the fair sex, but never had the pleasure of tying the hymenial knot. When seventy years of age, his thirst for innocent and childish amusements was such, that he actually went to the dancing school, where he regularly attended, and appeared highly gratified with his youthful associates. About two years ago, a sister, who resides in London, was at the trouble of paying him a visit; and during her short-stay, he generously indeed allowed her milk and lodging; but for bread and other necessities she was obliged to provide herself. When he had any money to send to his banker at Newcastle, three of his most trusty servants were well mounted and armed with pistols; his principal man rode in the middle with the cash, and the other two at proper distances from him, in his van and rear. In this defensive manner they marched along, the better to resist any attack that might be attempted by daring highwaymen. Though so singular in his manner, no person deserved better the name of a good man.

February 1, 1804.—Mr. J. Packer, in Spinningsfield,
Vol. II. [aged

aged 33, only five feet seven inches high, and weighed the enormous weight of 29 stone.

At Lane End, Staffordshire, at the advanced age of 106, Mr. J. Meller; he was attended to the grave by thirteen friends, whose ages amounted 1296.

August 2d. 1803.—John Parker, aged eight years, a servant to Mr. Bullivant, of Stanton in Derbyshire, was killed in a most extraordinary manner. He was returning home on the back of a poney, and by some means fastened a basket he was carrying upon the post of a gate, which he was endeavouring to open. The basket was fixed to the boy by means of a leather strap, which, by the accident, being drawn tight across his throat, unfortunately hanged him almost instantly.

Feb. 1804.—Died suddenly at Kingston, aged 109, George Gregory, supposed to be the last of the crew of the Centurion which circumnavigated the world with Lord Anson. He never had a day's illness since he went to sea, which was in the year 1714, when he was impressed in the Downs out of the Mary Brig, belonging to North Shields.

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A DREADFUL ACCIDENT.

**FIRE.**—On Wednesday, January 25, 1804, a coal-pit in the neighbourhood of Renfrew was discovered to be on fire, the flames bursting out with great violence at the mouth of the pit. Six unfortunate men were working under-ground at the time, in reflecting on whose shocking situation, the mind flies for relief to the hope that their sufferings were not protracted.—It is uncertain whether the accident was occasioned by the explosion of gunpowder, or foul air. The fire continued to burn for nearly two days, at which time the mouth of the pit was covered up, in expectation of smothering the flame.

## AN EARTHQUAKE.

**T**HE following is part of a letter from the Hague, dated January 23, 1804 :—

“ A society of musical amateurs, on Friday last, gave an Oratorio at the Lutheran church here. On a sudden, the chandeliers, and other objects, suspended within the church, were seen in motion, which was attributed to the effect of the musical instruments. But it has since been known, that, at the same hour (seven in the evening), a like phenomenon was observed at Rotterdam, Haarlem, Schiedam, and Maassluis. In the last of these cities, the chandeliers of the Reformed Church were in motion during the time of divine service, so as to be frequently removed between two and three feet from their usual position. The direction of this motion was from west to east. After the motion had been forcibly stopped during ten minutes, it recommenced, but was not quite so perceptible. This extraordinary event so greatly terrified the congregation, that the greater part took to flight; and the preacher being left nearly alone, found himself under the necessity of abruptly finishing his sermon. The cause of this phenomenon is not yet ascertained. It is attributed to the shocks of an earthquake. It is remembered, that the same thing took place at the time of the great earthquake at Lisbon.

“ The shocks were also felt by persons under the organ gallery; and by two individuals in a cabriolet, between Schiedam and Rotterdam. Many vessels on the Maese and the Schie were moved by the same shock. Letters from Bois-le-Duc state, that the same day shocks were felt in that city, which could only be attributed to an earthquake. The brass chandeliers in the church of St. John were agitated in a very surprising manner. In many kitchens, several of the utensils were overturned.”

## MIRACULOUS PRESERVATION.

**I**N the gale of Thursday, January, 26, 1804, whilst the Plantagenet, the ship which blockaded the French fleet for forty-eight hours, was working into Cawsand Bay, the main top-mast went over the side, part of which struck one of the midshipmen, who was standing on the main chains, and precipitated him into the sea, from which he was miraculously preserved by the force of the wave, which threw him back, and left him senseless on the deck. We are happy to hear, however, he soon recovered.

## PEDESTRIAN WAGER.

**FEBRUARY 10.**—On Friday a young man of the name of Gregory set out from St. John's Street, to walk 50 miles on the Hertfordshire Road, which he engaged to perform in twelve hours; the original bet was for only ten guineas, but a considerable sum was sported, some supposing he would accomplish it in a much shorter time than was allowed. He started at six in the morning, passed through Hatfield between nine and ten, and reached Welling, twenty-five miles distant, before eleven, where he staid a short time, and then returned. He arrived at the place from whence he started, twenty minutes past five in the afternoon, apparently very little fatigued.

## A PERSON WALKING IN HIS SLEEP.

**Feb. 13, 1804.**—Mr. S. Smith, gardner, of Wheatly, near Gainsborough, returning from work, called at Mr. Justice's, at Bole, where he took some refreshment; and it being dark, was prevailed upon to take a bed. He retired to rest about eight o'clock; at eleven he dreamed that the house was on fire; and in his alarm, although a stout man, weighing 13 stone, and 70 years of age, he forced



Forced his way through the window of his room, which is only 13 and a half inches by 12, dropped nine feet to the ground, and ran a considerable distance, until (having nothing on but his shirt and night-cap) his feet being so much cut, and other parts of his body so much bruised, that the pain he experienced awoke him. His astonishment at finding himself in such a situation and in such a predicament, may be easier conceived than described. He hastened again to bed, and is now nearly recovered from the effects of the singular adventure.

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A LARGE HOG.

On Feb. 13, a Leicestershire hog, remarkable small bone, the property of Mr. Thomas Matthews of Rothley, was killed. The enormous weight was as follows;—the two sides 595 lbs. head 37 lbs. inside fat 87 and a half lbs. total 719 and a half lbs.; the fore feet weighing only 5 lb. 4 oz.

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On Feb. 19, a Sow of the Chinese breed was slaughtered at South Coats, near Hull, of the weight and dimensions as follows:—Length from rump to the crown 40 inches; depth at the shoulder 20 inches; girth at breast 48 inches; girth at loins 45 inches; girth at chops 45 inches; length from the crown to the nose 10 and a quarter inches; length of the ears 4 inches; her eyes were closed up with fat; she was five years old, had brought 157 pigs, and weighed 18 stone when killed.

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SIR,

The following is an account of Mr. Strong. By inserting it in your Magazine, will oblige,

Sir, your's,

J. T.

MR. Strong of Carlisle, who was born blind, follows the business of a diaper weaver. He is at present advanced in years; but his mechanical abilities are not yet im-

impaired to any considerable degree. In the exercise of these, besides making almost every article of household furniture, he has constructed various pieces of machinery, of which is the model of a loom, the figure of a man working it: to shew his strong propensity to produce by his own ingenuity and labour, whatever he thought worthy of possessing, I shall add the following circumstance: When he was fifteen years of age, he concealed himself one afternoon in the cathedral, during the time of service: after the congregation was gone and the doors shut, he got into the organ-loft, and examined every part of the instrument. This had engaged his attention till about midnight, when having satisfied himself respecting the general construction, he proceeded to try the tones of the different stops and the proportion they bore to each other; this experiment was not to be conducted in so silent a manner. In short, the noise alarmed the neighbourhood, and some people went to see what was the matter, and Joseph was found playing the organ. The next day he was taken before the dean, who after reprimanding him for the step he had taken in order to gratify his curiosity, gave him leave to play it whenever he pleased. In consequence of this, he set about making a chamber organ, which he completed without the assistance of any body. He sold this instrument to a mechanic in the Isle of Man, where it is still in being. Soon after this, he made another, upon which he nows plays both for amusement and devotion. Some years ago he walked from Carlisle to London, to visit Mr. Stanley, the celebrated organist, and, for the first time, made him a pair of shoes.

J——h W——m.

Sir,

I enclose for your truly entertaining and Valuable Register, a well authenticated fact, respecting a most surprising and hazardous enterprise of a French Officer

officer with a handful of men, in gaining possession of a fortress of considerable interest to the French service, in the reign of Henry the Fourth, of that nation; and though compared with the many instances of the successes of the gallant soldiers and sailors of our own country, it may sink by comparison, is still from the novelty of the plan adopted, deemed, in my estimation, worthy a place in your scientific publication. Who am from its intrinsic merit.

A Constant Reader.

“THE manner in which *Fescamp* (a post and fortress in the county of Caux in Normandy) was surprised, is so remarkable, that it well deserves a particular recital. When this fort was taken by Biron from the league, in the garrison that was turned out of it, there was a gentleman called Bois-rose, a man of sense and courage, who making an exact observation of the place he left, and having concerted his scheme, contrived to get two soldiers, whom he had bound to his interest, to be received into the new garrison which was put into *Fescamp* by the Royalists. That side of the fort next the sea is a perpendicular rock six hundred feet high, the bottom of which for about the height of twelve feet, is continually washed by the sea, except four or five days in the year, during the utmost recess of the sea, when, for the space of three or four hours, it leaves fifteen or twenty fathoms of dry sand at the foot of the rock. Bois-rose, who found it impossible by any other way to surprise a garrison, who guarded with great care a place lately taken, did not doubt of accomplishing his design, if he could enter by that side which was thought inaccessible; this he endeavoured, by the following contrivance, to perform.

He had agreed upon a signal with the two soldiers whom he had corrupted, and one of them waited for it continually upon the top of the rock, where he posted himself during the whole time that it was low water. Bois-rose taking the opportunity of a very dark night, came

came with fifty resolute men, chosen from amongst the sailors, in two large boats, to the foot of the rock. He had provided himself with a thick cable equal in length to the height of the rock, and tying knots at equal distances, run short sticks through, to serve to support them as they climbed. The soldier whom he had gained having waited six months for the signal, no sooner perceived it, than he let down a cord from the top of the precipice, to which those below fastened the cable, by which means it was wound up to the top, and made fast to an opening in the battlement with a strong crow run through an iron staple made for that purpose. Bois-rose giving the lead to two serjeants, whose courage he was well convinced of, ordered the fifty sailors to mount the ladder in the same manner, one after the other, with their weapons tied round their bodies, himself bringing up the rear, to take away all hope of returning; which indeed soon became impossible, for before they had ascended half way, the sea rising more than six feet, carried off their boats and set their cable a floating. The necessity of withdrawing from a difficult enterprise is not always a security from fear, when the danger appears almost inevitable. If the mind represents to itself these fifty men, suspended between heaven and earth, in the midst of darkness, trusting their safety to a machine so insecure, that the least want of caution, the treachery of a mercenary soldier, or the slightest fear, might precipitate them into the abyss of the sea, or dash them against the rocks; add to this the noise of the waves, the height of the rock, their weariness and exhausted spirits, it will not appear surprising that the boldest amongst them trembled, as in effect he who was foremost did. This serjeant telling the next man that he could mount no higher, and that his heart failed him, Bois-rose, to whom this discourse passed from
mouth

mouth to mouth, and who perceived the truth of it by their advancing no higher, crept over the bodies of those that were before him, advising each to keep firm, and got up to the foremost, whose spirits he at first endeavoured to animate; but finding that gentleness would not prevail, he obliged him to mount by pricking him in the back with his poniard; and doubtless, if he had not obeyed him, he would have precipitated him into the sea. At length, with incredible labour and fatigue, the whole troop got to the top of the rock, a little before the break of day, and was introduced by the two soldiers into the castle, where they began to slaughter without mercy the centinels and the whole guard: sleep delivered them up an easy prey to the enemy, who killed all that resisted, and possessed themselves of the fort.

Bois-rose immediately sent notice of this amazing success to admiral Villars, who thought the government of the citadel he had so dearly bought, was the least reward he might expect. However, he heard that Villars, or rather the commander, de Grillon, had a design to drive him out of it. Amidst the first transports of his rage for this injustice, he delivered the Castle of Fescamp to the king, who provided plenty of all things necessary for its security.

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URSULA, OR AGATHA SONTHEL; *commonly called*

MOTHER SHIPTON.

From a very ancient and curious original picture, in the possession of Ralph Ousely, Esq. of York, preserved in the family of the proprietor, for more than a century; and communicated by Sir William Ousely, author of the *Oriental Collections*, &c. &c. &c.

THIS celebrated character, having been so much misrepresented by former writers, we have been particular in ascertaining, as far as possible, an authentic memoir of her life and actions:—She was born, according to the general accounts, in the reign of Henry the Seventh, near

Knaresborough, in the county of York, and baptised by the Abbot of Beverley, with the name of "Agatha Sonthiel," a circumstance which proves, by the sur-name, her being of foreign extraction by the father's side; who, it is most probable, came over with the Bretaigne associates of the Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry the Seventh, and resided, if not settled, at Knaresborough. Very little notice is, however, taken of her father or mother, by the writer of her life and prophecies, nor is she particularly remarked until her twenty-fourth year, when she was addressed in courtship by one Toby Shipton, a builder of Shipton, a village situate four miles north of the city of York. This match goes some way to disprove the vulgar report of her body being crooked, her face frightful, and her whole appearance disgusting.

With respect to her gift of prophecy, we have no other authorities than traditionary revelation from father to son, as no printed account, concerning her life and actions, can be found prior to the reign of Charles the Second; and it is more than probable that the chief part of the prophecies attributed to Mother Shipton, were composed after the restoration; and ingeniously contrived to answer the equally ingenious explanations, which are annexed to every sixpenny edition, extant.

That there did exist such a person is evident, and equally so that she had in her time a reputation as a very extraordinary woman; but it is as certain, notwithstanding an attempt to prove her a virtuous and religious character, that she was considered by her contemporaries, as a mischievous, if not diabolical person, by the representation of the familiar—introduced in her picture a fit emblem, whether considered as monkey or fiend, of her wayward and mischievous propensity.

A great stress is laid on her prediction on the famous Cardinal Wolsey, who died at Leicester, on the road to  
London

London, in the year 1530, at which time, Mother Shipton could not have been more than forty-two years of age, and whatever she might have predicted concerning his not being able to reach York, it is highly probable, was rather in consequence of the report of the king's determining he should be conveyed to London, than any power or divination in her.

The last prediction of Mother Shipton was concerning the time of her own death, which, it is said, she declared to several persons, who visited her in her advanced age. And when the time she had prophesied, approached, she called her friends together, advised them well, took a solemn leave of them, and laying herself down on her bed, she departed with much serenity, being upwards of seventy-three years of age, in the reign of Queen Elizabeth, anno 1561.

After her death, a monument of stone was erected to her memory, in the high road, betwixt the villages of Clifton and Shipton, about a mile distant from the city of York. This monument represents a woman upon her knees, with her hands closed in a praying posture; and is to be seen there to the present hour.

The same authority who preserved the invaluable MSS. of her *authentic* prophecies, has saved from oblivion her epitaph, but which is stated at this time to be entirely obliterated; it was as follows;

Here lies she who never ly'd,  
Whose skill often has been try'd;  
Her prophecies shall still survive,  
And ever keep her name alive.

We have not attempted to swell the article of Mother Shipton to an unnecessary length, by the insertion of the prophecies attributed to her; as the sole aim in this work is originallity, and authentic information.

## SURPRISING AFFECTION IN TWO RIVAL FEMALES.

**THE** Church of the Benedictines at Erfurt, in Upper Saxony, bears witness, in a splendid monument, of the following circumstance, thus related by a recent traveller:

Passing through this city, says he, I was induced to visit the tomb of Louis, Count Gleichen, of the house of Schazbourg, which gave an emperor to Germany. The Count having been taken prisoner in a battle with the Saracens during the Holy War, he was sold as a slave to the Sultan, and suffered a long and irksome captivity. One day, while he was working in the garden, the Sultan's daughter, who happened to be present at the time, approached him, and asked him many questions. The agreeable person of the Count, his air, and his manner so pleased the princess, that she at length offered to effect his deliverance, upon condition that he would marry her. I have a wife and children, replied the Count! What objection is that, said she: it is the custom of my country to have as many wives as a man may think proper? The Count no longer hesitated, but accepted the offer, and pledged his word to marry his deliverer. She immediately took her measures with promptness and activity to carry her plan into execution; and they soon embarked on board a vessel prepared to receive them. They arrived safely at Venice, where the Count found one of his domestics, who was then travelling in search of intelligence concerning him, and who assured the Count, that the Countess and his children were perfectly well. The Count hastened to Rome, and obtained permission of the Pope to retain both his wives. This took place in the year 1240, under the Pontificate of Gregory IX. If the Holy Father thus shewed himself indulgent, the Count's lawful wife was not remiss in complaisance to the young Saracen, who had been the means of restoring her husband, and conceived an uncommon degree of tenderness  
for



or this rival. The princess also met the advances of the Countess with the greatest sensibility, and as she had no children herself, she tenderly loved those of the Countess. The bed which was occupied by the Count and his two wives is still shewn at Gleichen. After their death, the bodies were all deposited in one tomb. The following is the epitaph placed over them:

"Here are interred the remains of two rival females, who loved each other as sisters, and had also an invincible affection for the same husband. One of them abandoned the religion of Mahomet to follow her spouse, while the other received her long-lost husband with open arms. United by the bonds of conjugal love, all three of them, during life, had but one nuptial bed, and after death reposed in the same tomb!"

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Procession or shew of a WINGED DRAGON, at Troyes, in France.

OF ancient customs, though ever so absurd, it has been highly observed, that it is both pleasant and useful to bring them to our recollection, whether they are religious or profane; as these are the best means of judging of the progress of refinement, and improvements in society.

The canons regular of the Church St. Loup, at Troyes, formerly carried in their processions, during Rogation week, a great winged dragon, which the common people called *chairsaléc*. This effigy of a dragon was well executed in bronze. It opened its throat and eyes, flapped its monstrous wings, moved by springs and the assistance of a rope. At this monster, it was the practice of the children to throw whatever came to their hands, and among the rest, cakes or *simnels*. At the first procession of this figure he was ornamented with garlands of flowers; and then it was understood he was to be contracted in marriage: on the second day, (for the procession lasted three days;) it being then thought he was married, it was decorated with ribbands and trinkets: but on the following

lowing day it was supposed to die; and it was then brought to the *Place de la Madeleine*, with its tail forwards, its eyes and its wings totally immoveable, and there despoiled of its flowers and trinkets by the populace. This custom was observed so late as the year 1728. The curate of St. Pantalion was the first who refused to countenance this superstitious proceeding any longer, by refusing it.

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AN INCOMBUSTIBLE PASTEBOARD.

IN the Literary Journal of 1785, of Petersburg, there is a new discovery mentioned, for which the inventor had obtained a premium from Catharine. It is a kind of pasteboard which no fire can consume, nor water soften. He proposes it as a necessary lining for the wooden houses of his country, and for clothing ships of war. As to its second property, it is no secret at present; the former has been examined by a chemist, and found to be nothing else than a preparation of alum. This secret, however, like the Telegraph, had been a very ancient one, and used in the time of Sylla, at the siege of Athens. The words of Q. Claudius Quadricarius are:—"Sylla then brought his forces to set fire to a tower, which Archelaus had placed there: he came, he piled faggots; he set them on fire; and after an obstinate labour, he could not make the tower take fire, as Archelaus had covered the planks entirely with alum."

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SINGULAR INSTANCE OF THE EFFECT OF TERROR.

MRS. JESSOP, the wife of a respectable gentleman at the east end of the city of Chester, in the year 1792, by a paralytic stroke, lost the use of her limbs, and the power of speech. For several years she remained in this state, when one afternoon all her family being out, except a maid-servant and a child, who was blind: she observed a fire burst out of a wooden building, which was
very

very near the room she sat in.—A consciousness that she should neither move from her seat nor call for help, struck her with such terror, as to have the effect of an electric shock. She made a violent effort—spoke, recovered the use of her limbs, and has remained in perfect health ever since.

Feb. 1804.

CAROLUS.

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SURPRISING INSTINCT IN CATS.

IN the island of Cyprus, near the promontory called *Cat's Cape*, anciently *Curias*, there is a monastery of Caloyerian Greeks, who have the singular custom of training a number of cats for the purpose of destroying the serpents, which are very numerous in that island.—These animals are so well instructed in the sport, that at the sound of a bell they instantly quit the chace, and return to the convent.

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AN ACCOUNT OF THE PERUVIAN LANTERN FLY.

THE *Cucujus Peruvianus*, or Lantern Fly, is an insect of considerable size, and is remarkable for the peculiarity it possesses of shedding a vivid lustre during darkness. At a distance it resembles a small lantern; for this reason the inhabitants, when going a journey by night, fasten several of them to the end of a stick, which enables them to see their way with facility.

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REMARKABLE PETRIFICATION.

IN the quicksilver mines at Guiana Villica, there is a fountain of hot water, which, after overrunning a piece of ground, condenses, and changes itself into a kind of rock, easy to be cut; and after remaining some days in this state, is commonly used by the inhabitants in the construction of their houses.

## TO THE EDITOR.

"SIR—Having been induced by your ready attention in inserting the several articles I have occasionally transmitted for your truly singular publication, to imagine similar communication would not be unacceptable, I have inclosed for your consideration two circumstantial and well authenticated memoirs of petrified substances discovered, the first in the county of Kent, and the other at Nottingham, which I have every reason to think have never before been submitted to public knowledge—and am with best wishes for the success of your excellent publication your well-wisher and occasional correspondent.

D. B. L.

Nottingham, March 8th, 1804.

## REMARKABLE DISCOVERY OF A PETRIFIED SUBSTANCE.

THE parliament in 1762 having given orders for a powder magazine to be erected at Folkstone in Kent, the following petrefaction was dug out of an old burial ground long before that time disused, being taken out of a grave and presented to Roger North, Esq. of Rougham in Norfolk. It was thought by the virtuosi to be a frustrum or piece of the muscular part of a human body, weighing about ten pounds, on one side of which was plainly to be seen two bones lying half out of the mass, one of which was about five inches long, and was thought to be the libia with its head and part of the shank or shin-bone, the other was shorter and much less; on the opposite side appeared a flat piece of wood (seemingly oak) though strongly petrified, which was thought to be a part of the coffin it was interred in. The whole mass of flesh as to colour looked as near as it could be compared, to a piece of mummy or embalmed flesh, interspersed with a great many iron-coloured spots, and in its shape resembled a great piece of flesh rolled up in four or five folds, and had some appearance of the marcasite or iron stone. This was esteemed the greater curiosity, inasmuch as flesh of any sort seldom or ever is known to have undergone so strong a petri-

a petrification, and seemed to preponderate even iron itself.

The original cause of this so strongly petrified substance, is not known; but it is imagined some vitriolic juices strongly impregnated with ferugineous particles falling upon that part of the body (for there was no other piece of the like kind to be found) might probably be the occasion of that wonderful and uncommon alteration.



REMARKABLE SUBSTANCE DISCOVERED BELONGING TO A  
HUMAN BODY.

A VERY extraordinary occurrence happened in the year 1792, in St. Mary's church-yard, in the town of Nottingham. It was found necessary to improve the passage by the side of the church-yard leading to the county hall, which could not be effected without taking down some houses, and the church-yard wall, which stood on the south-side; and the better to widen the road it was also necessary to use a part of the church yard. The ground being about ten feet higher here than in the street, when the fence-wall was removed which parted the church-yard and the street, there happened one night a heavy shower of rain, which washed away a considerable portion of the earth from the church-yard into the street; in consequence several coffins were left bare of covering, and some removed, amongst which was one that contained the remains of Mr. William Moore, who sometime lived at the sign of the Black Swan, near the church, and who had been buried about twelve years. The coffin being broken, there was found in his remains a concretion not unlike a pumice stone, but rather whiter, and as large as the liver of an ox, which was taken possession of by Mr. Walker, a respectable builder in Nottingham, under whose immediate inspection the fact happened, and which he has since divided among his curious friends. Mr. Moore was a remarkable man for

having a large belly, which projected more on one side than the other. He often observed to his friends that he perceived a hard substance forming within him when he was only twenty-two years of age, which grew slowly while he lived. He died about the age of seventy. He has been also heard to say that he felt but little pain from this substance; but found it troublesome. It may be worthy of remark, that the ribs on that side it grew, were much bowed outwards. Doctors Hodges, Nevil, and Ford, had examined him while living, several times; to the survivor of whom he had promised his body to be opened when dead; but he happening to survive those gentlemen, his body was interred without being opened. And certain it is, that nothing would have brought this curious phenomenon to light had it not been for this extraordinary and accidental occurrence.

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A MYSTERIOUS AFFAIR.

ON the morning of the 8th of April, 1790, as two servant boys were lading water from the river Trent at the lower end of the church-yard, Burton, Nottinghamshire, they discovered several guineas lying near the edge of the current, which they immediately gathered up and carried home. Many other persons continued to search the river for several days; and about 39 guineas have been at different times discovered and taken care of. Although the above circumstance was advertised in the public papers at the time, no inquiry has ever been made after this money, nor is there any satisfactory account to be given how it came there.

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EXTRAORDINARY WORKS OF ART.

IN the island of Salfete, near Goa in the Brazils, are vast recesses cut into the rock one upon another, some of which are so large as to form a town of four hundred houses, and the whole ornamented with terrific

rific idols, besides elephants, tigers, leopards, lions, amazons, &c.

FLOATING ISLANDS.

**N**EAR St. Omers in Flanders, there is a large lake on which are many floating islands, for the most part inhabited, and which are moved by means of cords attached to posts drove into the earth; upon one of the islands there is a church and a convent of religious Bernardins.

EXTRAORDINARY FRUIT.

**T**HERE is in several parts of Guiana, particular trees known by the appellation of *Totoch*, very remarkable for the nature of their fruit, which is so large, and at the same time so hard, when ripe, that no one can pass under it without instant danger of a fractured skull.

In many parts of Guinea there is a tree called *Mignolo*, the bark of which being pierced, furnishes an excellent liquor held in very high estimation by the inhabitants, who find it more agreeable, stronger and more nourishing than the most exquisite wines.

REMARKABLE PROPERTIES OF A DESERT.

**I**N the province of Gazo, in Negroland, there is a sandy desert of such a nature, that a number of persons perish owing to the driving of the sand; and what is most remarkable, the bodies of such persons never putrify, but remain as incorruptible as those of the Egyptian mummies.

EXTRAORDINARY DAILY RENOVATION OF FLOWERS.

**T**HERE is in many parts of the kingdom of Decan, in Africa, a remarkable tree called the *Nure-tree*, which is of such a nature that in the morning it is covered with red fibrous flowers, which, during the heat of the day, falls to

the ground ; it flowers afresh during the night, and appears in the morning entirely renovated.

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REMARKABLE FISH.

IN some rivers in Guiane there is found a curious fish, about the size of a smelt, which has four eyes, two on each side, placed one above the other, it is remarkable that when swimming, it keeps two eyes above, and two below the surface.

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STRANGE CAUSES OF SICKNESS AND DEATH.

**T**HERE is in Peru a high mountain called Periacaca; very few persons attempt to ascend to the summit of it, as those who attempt to do so, are immediately seized with a violent vomiting, which compels them to desist.

The desert of Punas in the same country, travellers in vain attempt to traverse, the cause of which is attributed to several persons being seized with a chillness, and instantly dropping down dead upon their entrance into this dreary region.

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BOILING LAKE.

IN the valley of Tarapaye there is a hot lake of a circular form; towards the middle the water is perpetually boiling for the space of twenty feet square; and, when the water is extremely hot, the earth around it is extraordinary cold.

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Upon one of the branches of the Oroonoke is so large a cascade, that the noise the fall of water causes is said to surpass that of 1000 bells ringing together at the one time.

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AN ARMY INNOCULATED.

Mr. Editor,—A curious fact appears in the journal of the American Congress during the war with England which I think merits preservation in your entertaining Miscellany; it is an order by the Congress to inoculate the American army *en masse*, in the most expeditious manner. Here follows the document *verbatim*, bearing date, August 13, 1777—

“ Resolved

“Resolved that major-general Schuyler shall send an officer, charged with the acceleration of the march of the troops of Carolina, to their head quarters. The said troops are to halt at Dumfries, Colchester, and Alexandria, in Virginia, to undergo inoculation. The surgeons which have been sent from Philadelphia to Dumfries, are ordered to perform this operation with the greatest celerity.”

A PETRIFIED RAM.

A LABOURER in a stone quarry in the village of Pantin, near Paris, having detached a large block of Stone, found in the middle a skeleton of a ram, petrified: Each part of the stone contained a perfect half of the animal, the parts were very distinct. The block was dug out of the living rock, at the depth of 30 feet from the summit of the quarry. A petrification so curious, was immediately deposited in the Museum of Natural History.

This discovery was made in the course of the month of Jan. 1804.

ENORMOUS WEN!

A CIRCUMSTANCE has lately occurred at Vienna, which has excited the attention of all the medical faculty in that city. A person who had been afflicted with a wen of a most uncommon size for 25 years past, is lately dead at the age of 88. This excrescence attained such a magnitude during the latter part of his life, that he was compelled to keep his apartment. The faculty thought this case of such consequence, that they obtained a model of the wen in wax, at the same time anxiously waiting for the decease of the patient to possess themselves of the original. The patient having heard of the design they had formed upon this part of his frame, took the precaution to make a will, in which he strictly forbade the separation of it from his remains after his decease. The physicians, both of the academy and the university finding subject

themselves so far frustrated in their object of obtaining a subject so interesting in anatomy, made without the knowledge of each other, several offers of money to the patient, to disannul the codicil of his will. He therefore took money from all the parties, and by a new codicil had it expressed that the wen in question should after his decease, become the property of the *faculty*! This vague expression in his last testament had produced a singular litigation between the University and the Academy, which, after some time was amicably settled by an agreement that the dissection should be made in common by both parties.



STORMS AND HURRICANES IN FRANCE.

THE 29th and 30th of Dec. 1803, were remarkable for the tempestuous state of the weather at several places in France; at Nantz on the 29th a most violent storm began about midnight, and continued till seven next morning. It was thought there was some shock of an earthquake, and considerable damage was done.

At Chartres on the following morning, the storm began about six, and lasted till noon. So many chimnies, &c. were blown down, that the streets were almost rendered impassible. The lead upon the church of Notre-Dame, was torn off, and pieces from 6 to 10 feet in length carried into the air like sheets of paper.

In the country the damage was not less considerable; many church steeples were blown down, and the houses in general, unroofed or overthrown; the trees broken or torn up by the roots. The night preceding the storm, the barometer experienced an elevation of nine; but at noon the next day, it fell down to three lines. At Paris also on the same day several persons got very much hurt upon the *Quai des Augustins*, by the fall of some tiles imprudently heaped together upon the top of a church wall, then pulling down. A slate fell upon the head of a wo-

man

wan in the *Rue St. Peres*, which opened her skull; she was taken to the *Hospital de la Charité*. An old man was thrown against a stone stud, and remained stunned during the whole of the day. Many Children were thrown down upon the *Pont-Neuf*, in the *Thuilleries*, and in the public squares. The Canvas covering the Corn Market was torn in many places. Twenty-five of the largest trees in the *Thuilleries* were either torn up by the roots or broken by the wind. The first in the avenue parallel to the walk of the *Feuillans*, fell on the Marble groupe, at twenty paces from it, overturned it, very much damaged one of the Figures. Four sentry boxes were thrown down, and much broken. Thick ropes were placed from some of the trees to the others, in the *Thuilleries*, which probably has been the means of saving them.

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*Genuine Account of the Tapestry at Bayeux in Normandy, said to have been worked by MATILDA, Queen to WILLIAM the CONQUEROR.*

THIS ancient tapestry has lately formed a very ample theme in the French newspapers, on which account it has been surmised, that as some political view was connected with the object of bringing forward such an obsolete piece of history at this particular juncture, much doubt, might be attached to the whole circumstance.—The reasons which induced the French government to descant so freely upon this event, and others which distinguished the reign of William the Conqueror, will not at present admit of discussion; the curious reader, however, is here presented with a more particular detail of the origin of the tapestry in question, not brought forward for any party purpose, being collected by an English author of some eminence, several months before it was probable that the First Consul thought of reviving the French history of this tapestry :

“ A very

“A very curious monument of the art of embroidery at the time of the Norman conquest,” says this author, “appears in the celebrated tapestry of Bayeux, which still exists, and is publicly exhibited at stated periods in the cathedral of that city. It is a web of linen, nearly two feet in breadth, and two hundred and forty-two in length, embroidered with a history of that memorable expedition, from the embassy of Harold to the Norman court in 1065, till his death in the following year. The scenes of this busy period are successively exhibited, and consist of many hundred figures of men, horses, beasts, birds, trees, houses, castles and churches, with (Latin) inscriptions over them, explanatory of their meaning and history. This work is understood to have been performed under the inspection of Matilda, consort to William I. and was not improbably executed by the hands of *English women*, whose superiority in performances of this kind, was then universally acknowledged.”

### THE INTREPID FEMALE:

OR, SURPRISING LIFE AND ADVENTURES OF MARY;  
ANNE TALBOT, OTHERWISE JOHN TAYLOR.

A natural Daughter of the late LORD WILLIAM TALBOT, Steward of his Majesty's Household; Colonel of the Glamorganshire Militia, &c. &c. &c. comprehending a Series of singular and remarkable Adventures she underwent, in the various Characters of a Foot-boy, Drummer, Deserter, Powder-Monkey, Sailor, Prisoner, &c. &c. &c. particularly her being wounded at the siege of Valenciennes; also in the Engagement of Lord Howe, on the 1st of June, 1794, and of her Imprisonment for eighteen Months in France; being taken in an Expedition under the Command of Sir Sydney Smith: Narrated by herself to the Editor of the *Scientific Museum*, and now first made public.

SINCE.

**S**INCE the publication of the wonderful lives and adventures of Robinson Crusoe, Moll Flanders, Moll Cutpurse, The German Princess, Colonel Jack, Duncan Campbell, and many other characters of equal celebrity, whose stories, from perhaps a single eccentricity or circumstance, has been spun with considerable interest as a romance by the prolific brains of celebrated writers, and gained a reputation of wonderful contrivance and prompt exertions to persons who never distinguished themselves by more than one occurrence; yet with all the foregoing advantages, we have nothing on record to parallel the extraordinary sufferings and adventures of this truly unfortunate female. Born and bred to elevated expectations; till the age of fourteen, we find in her no disposition to any masculine propensity; and but for the premeditated villany of the most seductive arts, would, in all probability have passed through life, if not in affluent, yet contented ease. We shall not, however, in our observations anticipate the interest the curious reader will feel in perusing her own narrative, by detailing any opinion we are impressed with on the authors of her wrongs and sufferings, but dismiss this note, with the reasons which led to a digression from the main story: which briefly are, that the public knowledge of the hardships she has undergone, may induce the liberality of a feeling and liberal public, to undertake something for her benefit, in addition to her Majesty's bounty of 20l. per annum, in order that she may pass the latter part of her days in more ease and tranquillity than those of her early ones, as being wholly dependant on the Royal Bounty, the half-yearly receipt of which is anticipated by an indispensable contract of debt, for dally support; and unless the Providence which has hitherto supported her under the most perilous circumstances, should still befriend her precarious situation, by inducing the wealthy and liberal to contribute towards her future prospects,

pects, in supporting a subscription suggested by the publisher of her Adventures; she must inevitably remain—the Child of Chance, and of Misfortune! Subscriptions towards the relief of MARY-ANN TALBOT received only by the Publisher, R. S. KIRBY, London-house Yard, St. Pauls.

[The veracity of every circumstance stated, will be proved in the course of the Narrative.]

I WAS born to experience in the extreme sense of the word, the disagreable incident to human nature; and if the reader of the following pages should judge harshly, the inducements that precipitated me into the early part of misfortunes which have attended each succeeding year of my life, I have only to supplicate commiseration towards a being bred in a country village, and from thence sent to a boarding-school, 180 miles from the metropolis, on leaving which, after nine years careful attention to my education and morals, I have to date the commencement of my future troubles.

I am the youngest of sixteen natural children, which my mother had by Lord William Talbot, Baron of Hen-sol, Steward of his Majesty's Household, and Colonel of the Glamorganshire Militia, with whom she kept a secret correspondence for several years. I never could trace any particular event taking place at my birth, which might serve as a presage of the singular adventures which I have since met with; unless it was in the circumstance of my being a surviving twin, or do I know any thing relative to the juvenile part of my life, but from the information of an only sister considerably elder than myself, and whom indeed I had taken to be my mother. From her I learnt I was born at London, in the parish of St. Giles, on the 2d day of Feb. 1778, in the house now in part occupied by Mr. Gosling the banker, Lincoln's Inn Fields.

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The hour which brought me into the world deprived me of the fostering care of a mother, whose loss I can never sufficiently regret, and in a short time was sent to nurse at a small village called Worthin, about twelve miles from Shrewsbury, where I remained until I had attained my fifth year, under the fostering care of an excellent woman, without feeling the irreparable loss I had sustained in the death of the only parent who might have been my protector and guide through life.

At the expiration of my fifth year, I was removed, (I know not by whose orders, but rather imagine by some friend of Lord Talbot's, who died before I left my nurse) to Mrs. Tapperly's boarding school, Foregate-street, Chester, in order to receive a liberal education. Here I remained nine years, unacquainted with the vices of the world, and knew no misery but seeing children more fortunate than myself receiving the embraces of their parents and friends. During my residence at Mrs. Tapperly's, I found a kind protector in my only surviving sister, who was married to a Mr. Wilson of Trevalyn, in the county of Denbigh, North-Wales.

In this relative I found every attention and care expected from a parent, and whom, indeed, as I have before stated, I took to be such. In her society I enjoyed the only gleam of happiness I was doomed to experience, from the moment of my coming into the world to the present instant; and even this was but of short duration; for alas; in the bloom of her youth and the flower of her age, she unfortunately fell a victim to childbirth, leaving me to regret, by the same visitation of Providence, a second parent, in the loss of a sister and friend united, and whom I tenderly loved; and as such have never ceased to lament. She told me the name she was known by before her marriage, was the Hon: Miss Dyer, being the name of the family she was brought up in, and possessed a

fortune of 30,000*l.* besides an income of fifteen hundred pounds per annum.

Deprived thus of the only relation and friend I knew in the world; and that at an age too when I stood most in need of her advice and assistance, I felt a vacuity in my heart, which rendered existence irksome. The care of me now devolved solely on a gentleman of the name of Shuker, who resided at Newport, in the county of Salop, who, within three months after the decease of my sister, taking on himself the authority of a guardian, removed me from the school at Chester, and placed me in his own family; where I soon became sensible of the loss I had sustained in the death of my dear sister, in a more eminent degree than ever; as the severity of Mr. Shuker seldom permitted me to quit the room assigned me but at meal-times, and seemed by the general conduct of his manners, to inspire me with a dread of his person, and consequently to avoid as much as possible any conversation on my circumstances, or that of my deceased sister. I must confess I was at a loss during the period I resided with him, to assign any reason for his conduct towards me; but have since been so perfectly satisfied as to its being a premeditated plan of his, to throw me in the way of any person whatever, who would remove from his care a charge, that, for reasons only known to himself, made the sight of me to him intolerable.

I had not been long under the roof of this inhospitable man, before he introduced me to a Captain Essex Bowen of the 82*d* regiment of foot, who I had once before seen at Chester, in company with Mr. Shuker; and understood from him, was then on the recruiting service. This was about a week previous to my quitting Mrs. Tapperly's, and who now appeared to be well acquainted with the particulars of my birth and family.

From the moment of his introduction to me at Mr. Shuker's



Shuker's, he paid me particular attention, which I accounted for in consequence of Mr. Shuker's observing—I was to consider him as my future guardian, he being appointed to superintend my education abroad; and requested me to pay him every possible regard, as the person to whose care I was entrusted.

In a few days I quitted Mr. Shuker's in company with Captain Bowen, who, on our departure, pretended to my late guardian, the most inviolable attachment to my family; and assured him in my hearing, that he would on his arrival in town, place me under the care of a female friend, in order to complete my education, and knowledge of the world; without which, he declared, I should be considered as an alien by my own family.

Unexperienced in the ways of a deceitful world, my youthful mind was elated at the thoughts of visiting London, a place which I had heard so much talk of, and was highly delighted with the varying scenes which alternately presented themselves to my view on the road, though the season of the year was inauspicious to beautiful prospects, being in January, 1792. On our arrival in the capital, which we reached without any remarkable circumstance, I was conveyed by Captain Bowen to the Salopian coffee-house, Charing-Cross, kept at that time by a Mrs. Wright, to whom I was introduced as his Charge; and where I soon after experienced a visible change in the manners of my pretended protector; who, in a very short period put in practice the villainous scheme which he had, no doubt, before our arrival in town, premeditatedly resolved on. Instead of exhibiting the least remorse, or endeavouring to sooth a mind, agitated by his proceedings, he threw off the mask which had hitherto concealed the villain, and placed in my view the determined ruffian. Intimidated by his manners, and in the knowledge of no friend near me, I became every thing  
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he could desire; and so far aided his purposes as to become a willing instrument to my future misfortunes.

I did not remain long before I was to become the object of more degradation; as, in consequence of an order from the regiment Captain Bowen belonged to, he was ordered to embark for St. Domingo; and projecting farther plans on my happiness; for, conceiving me properly subjugated to his purpose, and remarking my figure was extremely well calculated for the situation he had assigned me, he produced a complete suit of male attire; and for the first time made me acquainted with the unmanly design he had formed, of taking me with him to the West-Indies, in the the menial capacity of his foot-boy.

I had not much time to deliberate how to act; and by this time knowing his peremptory disposition; in a fit of frenzy and despair, I yielded to the base proposal, and assumed the character he had thought fit to assign me, in the name of John Taylor, which I ever after retained.

Thus equipped, I travelled with him to Falmouth, where soon after our arrival, we embarked on board the Crown transport, Captain Bishop, and set sail for the West-Indies on the 20th day of March, 1792. We had not been long on our voyage before I began to experience the hardships of my situation: shipboard even to the robust and most daring of the male sex, is at first, a very unpleasant dwelling; and it must naturally be supposed, was to one like myself particularly disagreeable; as the novelty of my new attire did not exempt me from being compelled to live and mess with the most menial of the ship's company, as Captain Bowen never suffered me once after I was on board to eat with him, but forced me to put up with what he left at meal times.

Fearful of incurring the raillery which detection would have occasioned, I resolved to endure the hardships

ships I suffered with patience, rather than discover my sex.

During our voyage we encountered a most tremendous gale, which continued for several days with such fury, that we were obliged to throw our guns overboard, in order to lighten the ship, and were reduced to such distress, as to render it necessary for the pumps to be kept at work continually; in consequence of which every person without distinction, (officers excepted) was obliged to assist in the laborious office. It was in this extremity I first learnt the duty of a sailor; being obliged on some necessary occasion, first to go aloft, which frequent use rendered at last familiar, and by no means irksome.

In addition to our affliction, the storm having driven us several leagues out of our latitude, we were compelled to put ourselves on half allowance; having, in our eagerness to lighten the ship, thrown overboard, besides the guns, casks of water, bags of biscuits, and many articles of indispensable necessity to our future comfort which we after severely missed; in consequence of which, we were compelled to put ourselves on the short allowance of a biscuit per day; and for water we were so much distressed, as to be wholly without for the space of eight days, during which period we were happy in consequence of some favourable showers, to wring the rain water from our watch coats, which, on such occasions, we never failed to hand out, to retain as much as possible the providential succour received. Nay, to such extremity were we reduced for want of this necessary article of life, that I have gladly flown to any little settlement of water on the deck, eagerly to apply my lips to the boards to allay the parching thirst I experienced.

As if the measure of our troubles were not accomplished, our main-top-gallant mast was rent asunder, and swept four men busily engaged at the windlass for our mutual

mutual preservation, into the sea, whom we never saw more.

Whether in consequence of the agitation I underwent, in the exertion of what I conceived now my duty, or the want of necessary provision, I know not; but the sudden loss of appetite I experienced, threatened to bring on me a fit of illness. After the storm was abated, a strong gale sprung up, and being in favour of our course we proceeded at the rate of thirteen and fourteen knots an hour.

We arrived at Port-au-Prince in the island of St. Domingo, early in the month of June; where, after the fatigue and distress I suffered on the voyage, by fortunate opportunities of taking moderate rest, my health and spirits were quickly restored, except a little weakness and debility brought afterwards on by the heat of the climate; and occasional melancholy reflections on my own unfortunate situation; as during my continuance on this island I avoided as much as possible, the sight and company of my destructive and abandoned betrayer.

Our stay at St. Domingo was but of short duration, owing to the arrival of a packet from England, which missed overtaking us, with orders to countermand our destination, and to join the troops on the Continent, under the command of his Royal Highness the Duke of York, by the gale before described. Here it was I was doomed to undergo another change of character; for Captain Bowen, judging it not convenient to continue me in the situation of his foot-boy, proposed my being enrolled in the regiment as a drummer, which, on my objecting to, he threatened to have me conveyed up the country, and sold as a slave. From dread of his really putting his threat in execution, I reluctantly acquiesced in his desire, and was immediately equipped in the dress of a drummer, and learnt the art of beating the drum from the instructions of drum-major Rickardson. In pursuance of  
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the orders brought by the packet, we immediately embarked on board some transports appointed for that service; and, being favoured with a brisk gale during the best part of our voyage, we arrived in safety at the place of our destination, a port on the coast of Flanders, the name of which I cannot well remember; as, immediately after our debarkation, we were marched off to join the main army at head quarters; previous to reaching which I found I was to answer the purpose of Capt. Bowen, as before, in the capacity of his drudge and foot-boy, whenever opportunity would allow the attendance from my duty as drummer. This mode of life was by no means congenial to my feelings; and, indeed, was in my eye worse than the situation I was in while foot-boy only, although I was more immediately compelled to endure the sight of a man, now rendered to me detestable.

I perfectly remember one, among a multitude of harassing excursions, which had nearly proved fatal to his Royal Highness the Duke of York, a part of his army, as well as myself. After a long and heavy march of thirty miles in one day, without halting but once for refreshment, while pitching our tents and making intrenchments, a part of our troops, for a time taking rest, were surprised and surrounded by the enemy, excepting a small space which led to an adjacent wood, and furnished a means of retreat to a part of the army, among which I was one, though without other apparel than my small clothes, which I had not taken off. The enemy observing our camp at rest, made the attempt in the middle of the night, owing to which circumstance many others, as well as myself, were equally unprepared in point of accoutrements, though the most we suffered on this occasion was the alarm, as a large party of Austrians, who had doubtless watched the motions of our adversaries, came timely to our assistance, and compelled the un-

welcome intruders to make a precipitate retreat, by which we regained our former station.

We continued to have frequent skirmishes with the enemy previous to the grand object of our royal commander, namely, the celebrated siege of Valenciennes, at which place I became subject to greater hardships than any I had hitherto experienced. Compelled to remain among my comrades wherever duty called, in the various struggles which preceded the surrender of the place; an eye witness to hundreds of friends and foes, indiscriminately falling around me; where the 11th dragoons, conspicuous above the rest, fought with their broadswords hand to hand, over heaps of dead and dying soldiers, I was shocked to see many a brave fellow at first but slightly wounded, meet his death by the trampling of horses, spurred on by the contending antagonists; during these conflicts, obliged to keep a continual roll to drown the cries and confusion, on the various scenes of action! The infantry equally distinguished themselves; as, wherever the enemy, however superior in number, opposed their progress, they never failed to meet their fate on the point of the British bayonet.

Towards the end of this memorable siege, I received two wounds, though fortunately neither deep or dangerous: the first from a musquet ball, which glancing between my breast and collar bone, struck my rib; and the other on the small of my back, from the broad sword of an Austrian trooper, which, I imagine, rather proceeded from accident than design, the marks of which two wounds I still bear, though at the same time I carefully concealed them, from the dread of their discovering my sex, and effected a perfect cure, by the assistance of a little basilican, lint, and a few Dutch drops. These accidents happened on the same day the Hon. Mr. Tolmache was killed by a musquet ball.

Soon.

answers to his Lordship's questions were founded on the hardships I had experienced, and in no shape framed to deceive. This statement joined no doubt to the Frenchmen's declaring my unwillingness to act in defence of the lugger, with the beating I had a little before experienced from *Le Sage*, gained me a favourable dismissal from Lord Howe, and served as a passport to a situation on board one of the ships in his Lordship's fleet on board of which I was immediately sent.

Elated with joy on beholding myself placed once more among my countrymen ; as, after my examination before Lord Howe, I was stationed on board the *Brunswick*, Captain John Hervey, where the story of my adventures, with the hardships I had suffered, gained me among the seamen as many friends as hearers, particularly for those I had undergone while on board the *Frenchman*. Our object in this cruise was to seek the fleet of the enemy, and bring on an engagement. The service allotted me, was to serve at the second gun on the quarter deck, and hand cartridge to the men ; or, to speak in the seamen's phrase, to act in the capacity of *powder monkey* ; I had not however been long on board before Captain Hervey observing my cleanliness and manner different from many lads on board, called me to him, and questioned me as to my friends, and whether I had not run away from some school, to try the sea ; finding by my answers I had been better brought up and educated than most in my present situation, he observed, if I would consider him as a confidential friend, and tell him the whole truth, I should find a protector in him, as he had children of his own, and could not tell what hardships they might encounter if he was dead ; on which I told him I had neither father nor mother living, and that oppression from the person to whose care I was entrusted, had first caused my quitting home ; and that in short, I was wholly destitute of any friend in the world.

imposed on, as money had been remitted to Captain Bowen, and my name mentioned in a way which gave rise to suspicions I had hitherto been a stranger to, and to explain how he had notwithstanding, treated me, was now my purpose to reveal. Having formed my plan, little time was necessary to put it in execution. I set out on foot that morning for the first place Providence might point out; as my deliverance from an enemy's country, however inexperienced I might be in some respects, I had the precaution to change my drummer's dress for one I had been accustomed to wear when on board, and which bore evident marks of the service it had been in; and during a long part of my journey I carefully avoided any town, or place of considerable appearance; always on such occasions taking a circuitous rout, frequently sleeping in a tree, under a hay stack, and sometimes in places much less convenient.

The diminutive and insignificant figure which I made in my sailor's attire, served me among the peasantry of the country villages, I was under the necessity of passing, to obtain refreshment from any straggling boy I could meet with on the skirts of the place, as a passport; for no one thought it worth while to question a person of my mean appearance.

In this manner I arrived at Luxemburg in September, without meeting the least molestation; here I soon found my ignorance in political matters, had led me into an error of a very awkward nature; and that being a town in possession of the French, they would not suffer me to proceed farther on my journey. Had I fortunately taken the contrary rout, I should most probably have reached Dunkirk or Calais in one third of the time it occupied me, in traversing that part of the country; as I have learnt from persons conversant with the maps of the continent, the distance from Valenciennes to either  
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of the last mentioned parts, is small in comparison to that I had inadvertently taken to Luxemburg. Finding myself thus situated, and destitute of every necessary of life, and in the midst of a country where no one paid me the smallest regard, I was constrained through mere necessity, though sorely against my wish, to engage with a Captain Le Sage, commander of a French lugger, on board which I embarked on the seventeenth of September, 1793. Soon after which we dropped down the Rhine, and sailed on a cruise, when I was put to the most common drudgery of the vessel; but even this I could have borne with patience, had not the painful idea occurred to my mind, that in this new situation, I should be doomed to raise my arm against my countrymen, which I learnt too late was the purpose of Le Sage, whom I had taken for a captain of a merchantman, but found no other than commander of a kind of privateer. Fortune however, in this one instance, proved kinder to me than she had hitherto been accustomed; as on this occasion, instead of falling in with some of the English merchantmen, as it was generally thought we should, and the ardent wish of Le Sage, our commander; ; we, after cruising about four months without any success, or meeting with any thing worthy notice, fell in with the British fleet, under the command of Admiral Lord Howe, then in the Channel.

On our first sight of the British, Le Sage ordered every one to their duty; and observing me to be missing, he followed me to where I was concealed among the ballast, to which I had contrived access through the cabin, in fear of being obliged to act against my country; and finding me persist in an obstinate refusal to come on deck, he beat me on the back and sides with a rope in a most inhuman manner, and drove me before him up the cabin stairs; but when on deck I absolutely refused

fused to assist in defence of his vessel ; and he being too much occupied to think only of me, left me to my own meditation. The British now bore on us, and, after a trifling resistance from the French, through desperation only, we were captured, and I considered as an English boy acting against my country, carried with Le Sage and his companions before Lord Howe on board the Queen Charlotte to be examined.

Being examined by his Lordship on the cause of serving on board an enemy's ship, I briefly told him, " That being without friends in England, I had accompanied a gentleman to the Continent in capacity of foot-boy, on whose death, I had in the greatest distress reached Luxembourg, in hopes of getting a passage to my native country, but finding that impossible, it being at that time in possession of the French, I was constrained, though much against my inclination, to enter into Le Sage's vessel, having experienced during the short stay I made in the town, no attention paid to my distress, chiefly, as I imagined, from being English ; and that my determination from the moment I engaged with Captain Le Sage was to desert the first opportunity that offered to forward my passage to England ; but had I known the intention of Le Sage was to act in an offensive manner against my countrymen, I assured his Lordship, I would rather have perished than been induced to have set my foot on board his vessel ; having, previous to sailing, taken him to be commander of a merchantman, and as such engaged with him.

Fortunately, his Lordship did not think of questioning me concerning the place where my late master died ; as in such an event I must unquestionably have acknowledged myself as a deserter from the British forces at Valenciennes, being in no way prepared to resist such an enquiry ; as my readers will be convinced the whole of my

answers to his Lordship's questions on the hardships I had experienced, I seemed to deceive. This statement justified no doubt the Frenchmen's declaring my unwillingness to see of the lugger, with the beating I had received from *Le Sage*, gained me Lord Howe, and served as board one of the ships in his Lordship's fleet, in which I was immediately sent.

Elated with joy on beholding myself placed once more among my countrymen ; as, after my examination before Lord Howe, I was stationed on board the *Brunswick*, Captain John Hervey, where the story of my adventures, with the hardships I had suffered, gained me among the seamen as many friends as hearers, particularly for those I had undergone while on board the *Frenchman*. Our object in this cruise was to seek the fleet of the enemy, and bring on an engagement. The service allotted me, was to serve at the second gun on the quarter deck, and hand cartridge to the men ; or, to speak in the seamen's phrase, to act in the capacity of *powder monkey* ; I had not however been long on board before Captain Hervey observing my cleanliness and manner different from many lads on board, called me to him, and questioned me as to my friends, and whether I had not run away from some school, to try the sea ; finding by my answers I had been better brought up and educated than most in my present situation, he observed, if I would consider him as a confidential friend, and tell him the whole truth, I should find a protector in him, as he had children of his own, and could not tell what hardships they might encounter if he was dead ; on which I told him I had neither father nor mother living, and that oppression from the person to whose care I was entrusted, had at last caused my quitting home ; and that in short, I was wholly destitute of any friend in the world.

world. He appeared concerned at my early misfortunes in life, and promoted me immediately to be his principal cabin boy, in which capacity I continued to serve him until our fleet came within sight of the enemy.

Three months after my coming on board the Brunswick, our fleet fell in with that of the French, which brought on the ever memorable action of the 1st of June; an event which will ever be remembered with heartfelt satisfaction by the brave fellows who shared the toils of that auspicious day, and indeed by every lover of our glorious constitution and country. I cannot enter into a minute description of the action, being in the first part so busily engaged, and in the latter so much wounded; and shall, in consequence, commit a description of a part our gallant crew took in this exploit by what I afterwards was informed while lying under cure of the wounds I got while employed on board a ship, the glory of every one who had the felicity of belonging to her I mean, "*the Brunswick*."

This ship sustained a most tremendous conflict, being singly engaged for a considerable time with three seventy-fours. One of these she sent to the bottom; another, conceiving her much weakened from her exertions, determined to board, and manned her yards and shrouds, with a view of running up along-side, and flinging in all her crew at once. She observing this, with the greatest intrepidity and coolness, reserved a whole broadside, and waited her approach. The enemy now drew near, and in one discharge the Brunswick brought every mast by the board, and scattered her crew like so many mice upon the ocean. The other seventy-four yet remained, and now attempted to close with the Brunswick, harrassed and enfeebled by her amazing efforts. At this moment the Ramillies, commanded by Captain Hervey's brother, came up, and running in between the Brunswick and the Frenchman,

Frenchman, took the enemy's fire, and relieved our gallant ship. So closely was she at times engaged, that she was unable to haul up her lower deck port lids, and was therefore obliged to fire through them. Nine were in consequence torn from her side; and the last broad-side she gave, every muzzle of her lower deckers touched the copper of the enemy's bottom. The chief part of this action I was spectator as well as actor in, though strange to add, was not in the least intimidated. Just before the coming up of the Ramilies, I received a severe wound above the ankle of my left leg, by a grape shot, that struck on the aftermost brace of the gun, which rebounding on the deck, lodged in my leg; notwithstanding which I attempted to rise three times, but without effect, and on the last effort part of the bone projected through the skin, in such a manner as wholly to prevent my standing, if I had been able to rise; in addition, to complete the misfortune, I received another wound by a musket ball, that went completely through my thigh, a little above the knee of the same leg, and lay in this crippled state till the engagement was over; every person on board not wounded, being too much occupied to yield me the least assistance. I remained in this situation the rest of the action; but at length was conveyed, with many other wounded, to the cockpit; where the surgeon, after making me suffer the most excruciating pain, could not extract the grape-shot from above my ankle, so completely was it lodged, and surrounded by the swelling which soon took place, and prevented his endeavour, through fear of injuring the tendons, among which he declared it lay.

Our ship being so much shattered, it was deemed necessary she should be put in port to undergo repairs; in consequence of which we were towed into Spithead soon after the action: but the severity of my wounds obliged me to keep close to my berth, and was thus deprived of the

gratifying pleasure of being hailed with those of my gallant messmates, who, on their arrival at Spithead, were greeted with the loudest acclamations of applause, by their grateful countrymen. With the first convenient opportunity, I was conveyed to Haslar hospital, at Gosport, and placed under the care of surgeon Dodd, as out-patient, there not being sufficient room, from the number of wounded seamen, to admit me into the hospital : during the time I lay under his hands, I lodged at No. 2, Riemes Alley Gosport, and supported myself with money I had received from Captain Hervey prior to the engagement. After four months attendance, and obtaining a partial cure ; as, surgeon Dodd, though the utmost of his skill was exerted, could not extract the ball, it having lodged among the tendons, as before stated ; to have cut among which, he said, would make me a cripple for life.

At length, little remaining but the scars which I shall carry to my grave, and having obtained in a great measure the use of my leg, I was discharged from the hospital, and soon after entered on board the *Vesuvius* bomb, Captain Tomlinson, then belonging to the squadron under the command of Sir Sydney Smith, lying at Spithead, and immediately commenced a cruise, in hopes of making prizes ; but after some weeks cruising on the French coast without success, we steered for the Mediterranean, and, on our arrival at Gibraltar, came to an anchor, where we continued for three days ; during that time we received an order to join the squadron under Sir Sydney Smith ; on which we immediately weighed, and proceeded according to the directions received. Nothing worth notice occurred until we fell in with Sir Sydney and the ships under his command, in company of which we proceeded to Havre de Grace, where we were soon after separated in a gale ; and continuing on the French coast with intent to rejoin Sir Sydney, fell in with two privateers

Privateers near Dunkirk; from whom, observing their superior force, Captain Tomlinson endeavoured to make sail. The Frenchman observing his determination, crowded all the sail he could make, in chase; and we instantly commenced a running fire, which continued seven hours; at the end of which their superior weight of metal brought us to, and were in consequence immediately boarded. What became of Captain Tomlinson, the vessel, and part of the crew, I know not, as myself, and William Richards, a young midshipman, (in which capacity I also acted on board the *Vesuvius*) were separated from the rest, and carried on board one of the two privateers that captured us; we imagined the rest were conveyed on board the other; but I have since reason to think the *Vesuvius* was recaptured, as she now continues in the British service.

When on board the privateer, who had taken us prisoners, we were deprived of our dirks, and conveyed to Dunkirk, where we were lodged in the prison of St. Clair, in Church-street, which had a little before belonged to the nuns of St. Clair, some of whom since the revolution, have settled in England. Here I experienced the hardships of a French prison for the tedious space of eighteen months; in the course of which time Richards and myself projected a plan for our escape, by getting to the top of the prison, in order to jump off; but being observed by a centinel on duty, we were both confined in separate dungeons, where it was so dark, I never saw day light, during the whole time, of eleven weeks; and the only allowance I had, was bread and water, let down to me from the top of the cell. My bed consisted only of a little straw, not more than half a truss, which I never had changed. For two days I was so ill in this dreadful place that I was unable to stir from my wretched bed of straw, to

reach the miserable allowance ; which, in consequence, was drawn up in the same state it was the days before let down. The next morning a person, who, I suppose, was the keeper of the place, came into the dungeon without a light, (which way he came I knew not, but suppose by a private door, through which I afterwards passed to be released) and called out to me, " Are you dead ;" to which I was only able to reply, by requesting a little water, being parched almost to death by thirst, resulting from the fever which preyed on me : he told me he had none, and left me in a brutal manner, without offering the least relief. Nature quickly restored me to health, and I sought the bread and water with as eager an inclination as a glutton would seek a feast. About five weeks after my illness, an exchange of prisoners taking place, I obtained my liberty, but did not see any thing of Richards till after my arrival in England, where I met him by chance, near Covent-Garden.

During my residence in the prison of St. Clair, I observed among the rest of the prisoners, a very ingenious man, a German, who employed his time, and obtained more comforts in this place, than most others, by working gold wire in a particular manner, and which he disposed of, in the various shapes of bracelets, rings, and ornamental chains for ladies dresses. This man seemed fearful I should learn his method of workmanship, and was angry whenever I particularly noticed him at his work ; notwithstanding, I contrived by frequent sight of the method he used, to bring the secret with me to England.

I was extremely weak, though in excellent spirits, on my deliverance from prison, but could scarcely bear the light for some days afterwards, it having an effect on my eyes, as every thing round me was chalk. I had thoughts of returning to England by the means of those who effected



fecting my release, but was diverted from this measure by the following circumstance :

Following my fellow prisoners just released, and from the pain in my leg, being considerably behind them, it was my chance to overhear the conversation of a gentleman making inquiries in English, of some seafaring men (by appearance) in Church-street, near the market, respecting any lad they knew, willing to make a voyage to America, in quality of ships steward. I immediately accosted him, and proffered my service, being destitute of necessaries, and preferring such a situation, if I could obtain it, to a return to my native country, among the rest of my countrymen lately exchanged. The gentleman immediately asking me my present situation at Dunkirk, which I briefly explained ; in consequence of which I accompanied him back to the prison of St. Clair, where finding by the keepers of the prison I had given him a true relation, he engaged me in the above capacity to perform the voyage to New-York, and from thence to England (which he informed me would be his next voyage) for 50*l.* and all I could make, at the same time advancing me sufficient cash in part, to fit me out : his name was Captain John Field, of the *Ariel*, merchantman, New-York, on board which vessel I directly embarked ; and during our short stay at Dunkirk, was employed in correcting the ship's books, paying the men, victualling the ship, and taking in the cargo. Our vessel was chiefly laden with bale-goods, among which was French lace to the value of 5000*l.* We set sail for New-York, in the month of Aug. 1796, and arrived after a successful and expeditious voyage of not more than a month, at the place of our destination, which, on going on shore I mistook for London, and particularly remarked a church, so like the one in Covent-garden, that I absolutely mistook it to be that church. I was detained little more than a fortnight at New-York, and was chiefly employed

ployed in taking an account of the goods delivered to the respective owners, after which duty, I accepted an invitation to accompany my Captain in an excursion to Providence State, in Rhode Island, where his family resided. During this journey, and indeed the whole of the voyage, I was considered rather as a friend and companion, by Captain Field, than a person in his pay, and under his command.

On our arrival at Rhode Island, we found Captain Field's family in good health; it consisted of his wife, four children, and a niece. Here I spent the most agreeable fortnight of my life; as the Captain neither paid nor received any visits, but I made one of the party: Mrs. Field also appeared equally attached to me, which made the short time I continued among this worthy family, appear to me but as a dream, so few and transient were my days of happiness. Among other visits, we made one to Mr. Field, the Captain's father, a very agreeable and worthy gentleman. The only circumstance of an unpleasant nature that occurred during my stay in America, was the great partiality the Captain's niece had to my company, and which proceeded to such an extent, as to make me the offer of her hand in marriage. I made several excuses, but could not divert her attention from what she proposed. Mrs. Field at length being acquainted with the circumstance, made my youth and inexperience in the world, a great objection; but neither my excuses, or Mrs. Field's request, had any weight, opposed to the young lady's inclination, which she endeavoured to accomplish to the last hour of my residence at Rhode Island. She requested before Mrs. Field, that I would make her a present of my picture; for which purpose I sat for a miniature at New York, in the full uniform dress of an American officer—for this picture I paid eighteen dollars. The time of our departure for England being arrived, I  
reluctantly

reluctantly took my leave of Mrs. Field, and family ; but had scarcely proceeded two miles on the way to New-York, before I was summoned back, being overtaken by a servant, who informed the Captain and myself, we must come back, as the young lady was in strong fits. We returned, and found her still in a fit, out of which, with great difficulty we recovered her ; and I by making her a promise of a speedy return from England, with great reluctance on her part, took my final departure.

Our stay at New-York was but short ; the mate, in the absence of Captain Field and myself, having taken charge of the cargo consigned to England, and obtained the necessary invoices of the goods ; chiefly manufactured cotton, and camblets. This, had I remained on board, would have been part of my duty ; but through indulgence from the captain, was performed by another. We proceeded on our voyage to England with a favourable wind, and arrived at Cowes, in the Isle of Wight, without meeting with any thing particular on the way. Our provisions falling short, we took in some fresh, and after waiting three days for a convoy, proceeded to the river Thames, where we safely cast anchor on the 20th of November, 1796, and came to a mooring in the tier off Church-hole, Rotherhithe. We delivered our cargo, and had been some days taking in a fresh one, Captain Field not thinking of staying longer in England than absolutely necessary for taking in an outward bound cargo ; and the many acts of friendship I had experienced from this gentleman, determined me to accompany him in any voyage he might undertake ; particularly as he had often informed me if I continued with him a voyage or two more, he would resign the command of the vessel to me ; it being his intention to retire from the sea service in a short time. He told me he had an idea of making a trading

trading voyage up the Mediterranean, and commissioned me to purchase some maps, charts, &c. necessary for such an undertaking, which I in consequence bought (at Fadens, who then resided at the corner of St. Martin's Lane, Strand,) by his direction.

Being short of men to work the ship, the Captain had engaged two fresh hands, who came on board the afternoon of the same day, myself being the only officer on board; I took the description of their persons, and entered their names on the ship's books, being employed at the same time in settling my accounts in the cabin, and loose cash, with some bank-notes lying on the desk. After giving them orders to assist in swabbing the decks the first thing in the morning, I dismissed them. Soon after twelve o'clock at night, I was awakened by a violent noise at the upper cabin door, with a crash, as if some part of it had given way. Alarmed at the moment, I searched for a tinder-box, to strike a light; but through hurry could not lay my hand on it, as almost at the same instant I caught hold of a brace of pistols, which hung on the side of the cabin fire-place; these to my great surprize I found unloaded. A second attempt of a more violent nature than the first, being made at the inner door, I recollected a sword which hung over the captain's birth, which suddenly I took down: at the instant the cabin door had given way, by a wrench from an iron crow, or some such instrument, I knowing the situation of the door, with the sword in my hand made towards it, and immediately made a thrust that I knew must wound deep, from the difficulty I found in drawing it back: I heard neither groan, or noise; but found the intruder, whoever he was, retired. I now sought the tinder-box, and struck a light, secured the door, and sat up the remainder of the night. The first thing in the morning the men observed a quantity of blood on the deck, in a track  
from

from the cabin door, which they noticed as being broke, and asked me if any thing particular had happened; to which I made no reply; but on finding Mac Gregory, one of the new engaged hands, to be absent, I inquired after him, and was informed he was unwell from an accident he had met with the night before in getting into his birth. I made no other inquiries; but waited until the captain should come on board, which he did about eleven o'clock the same morning; and on entering the cabin, noticed the shattered condition of the door. When I informed him of the particulars, adding, the man I suspected, Mac Gregory, still remained in the ship, the captain instantly ordered him to be brought forward, when his thigh was discovered to be dreadfully swelled, and the marks of the wound shewed a sword or some such weapon to have passed through his thigh. He could make no defence to my accusation of his attempt to rob the cabin, and breaking the door. Captain Field finding his wound dangerous, sent him to St. Thomas's hospital, where he escaped prosecution, by the ship's sailing before he could obtain a cure.

A few days after this affair, the mate John Jones (a native of New-Providence) and myself, agreed on a little excursion on shore, previous to our leaving England, to which purpose we put on a plain seaman's dress, knowing the prejudice of most of the lower people about Wapping, against officers of any description, whom in general they consider as little better than spies on their actions. But while about to land at St. Catharine's, we were attacked by a press-gang, whom we resolutely opposed; I in my defence taking up one of the skulkers of the boat, with which I struck one or two who attempted to secure me. In this contest I received a wound on my head by a cutlass, a large seam from which remains to the present hour. After a long struggle, during which I was tumbled out of

the boat up to my arm-pits in water, the mate and myself were both secured ; fortunately for him, he had his warrant as an American officer about him, which procured his discharge, when taken on board the tender. On my examination taking place, not prepared for such an event, I had inadvertently left my protection as an American on board the Ariel, behind me. This circumstance, with the treachery of Jones, who informed the regulating captain I was an Englishman, thereby thinking to get rid of a dangerous rival, (he being particularly attached to the niece of Captain Field, but had lost all hope of success with her, by her known partiality for me) and moreover stated I was the best seaman on board their vessel. This declaration, joined with the want of the certificate I had left in the Ariel, occasioned my detention on board the tender for three days and nights. In this situation my indignation at the treachery of Jones, agitated me beyond any thing I had hitherto suffered ; and I thought on various schemes, but without putting any in practice, to effect my deliverance. At length there being a sufficient number of impressed men collected to clear the tender for the reception of others, myself with the rest of the men confined were brought upon deck, in order to be sent to different ships. Finding I had nothing to prevent this, but a disclosure of what I had so long kept within my own breast, I accosted the inspecting officers, and told them I was unfit to serve his Majesty in the way of my fellow sufferers, being a female. On this assertion they both appeared greatly surprized ; and at first thought I had fabricated a story to be discharged, and sent me to the surgeon, whom I soon convinced of the truth of my assertion. The officers upbraided each other with ignorance at not discovering before, my being a woman, and readily gave me a discharge.

Resolved never to go on board the Ariel, after the disclosure

closure of my sex, I wrote to Captain Field, without mentioning the way in which I obtained a discharge from the tender, only requesting he would meet me as soon as possible at a house the corner of Tower Street, Tower Hill; he being on board at the time, my letter had not been dispatched long, before he gave me the meeting, and was astonished, at my disclosing to him the manner in which I obtained my liberty. It was some time before I could convince him I was really a woman; having for such a length of time known me experience hardships so opposite the delicacy of the female sex. He endeavoured to prevail on me to accompany him in his intended voyage, but no arguments could induce me (after acknowledging former favours received) to accompany him, or indeed for the present to think of the sea-service, in any way whatever. Finding his applications fruitless, he honourably paid me every shilling due on our engagement, and beside made me a very handsome present. After this interview I saw him but twice, nothing material passing between us, except his earnest desire of my disguising my sex, and resuming my former situation, which he could never prevail on me to accede to.

With money in my pocket, I was undetermined how to act, but for the present took a lodging in East-Smithfield, and during my residence here, made several applications at the Navy-pay-office, Somerset House, for money due to me, for service on board the Brunswick, and the Vesuvius bomb, from which I was taken by the French, exclusive of prize-money I was entitled to, by captures on the first of June; at length I was directed to apply respecting the prize-money to the Agent, No. 4, Arundell-street, Strand, where I immediately went, and was desired to call another time: being vexed at the disappointment, I returned to Somerset House; where, through many disappointments, I made use of language which gave offence

to some of the gentlemen, and was immediately conveyed to Bow-street, on the 31st of December, 1796. Here I underwent a long examination, which lasted till near twelve o'clock, before the sitting magistrate, now Sir Richard Ford, to whom I produced my discharge from the tender, and other documents to prove the sufferings and hardships I had undergone, so much to his satisfaction, that I obtained a discharge, and was requested to attend the Monday following at two o'clock, which I did, and found there several magistrates assembled, where I underwent a long private examination, the consequence was, a subscription was immediately made, and by the recommendation of some gentlemen present, I was placed in a lodging at the house of Mrs. Jones, Falcon Court, Shoe Lane, with a strict injunction, if possible, to break me of the masculine habit I was so much used to. I received twelve shillings a week for a support till I could get the money due to me from Government. The above sum was regularly paid me from the above subscription, by a Mr. Pritchard of New-Inn, who was present at my last examination, and to whom Mrs. Jones was laundress.

I had not yet changed my seaman's attire ; but during the stay I made with Mrs. Jones, I resumed the dress of my own sex, though at times I could not so far forget my seafaring habits, but frequently dressed myself, and took excursions as a sailor. In less than a month, I received the greater part of the money due to me from the Navy-pay-office, which I cheerfully participated in the family of Mrs. Jones ; who, notwithstanding, treated me in an ungrateful manner, misrepresenting me to the gentlemen who had raised the subscription, as a person on whom their bounty was misplaced, and being inclined to masculine propensities, more than what became a female ; such as smoking, drinking grog, &c. though I never took any of the latter, but she was always invited to a part,  
and



and of which I never found her backward in taking a good allowance. Whenever I dressed myself as a sailor, I sought the company of some messmates I had known on board the Brunswick, and as long as my money lasted, spent it in company with the brave fellows, at the Coach and Horses, opposite Somerset House, a place where they mostly frequented.

I removed from Mrs. Jones's to Chichester Rents, Chancery Lane, and lodged with a very decent woman, named Higgins, where the grape-shot which had remained in my leg from the time of our engagement in the Brunswick, June 1794, worked itself out in Feb. 1797—the reason I imagine, proceeded from the wounds breaking out afresh, in consequence of my too free use of spirituous liquors, since my residence on shore. I kept the ball by me for some time, to which there adhered a quantity of flesh; but was obliged at last to throw it in the fire, from the offensive smell of the flesh, which soon putrified; my leg, notwithstanding the ball was out, continued so bad, that I applied for admission to St. Bartholomew's hospital, and went in as a female, though I frequently wore, while under cure, my sailor's dress, and in consequence was taken as a man in the woman's ward, by strangers. I remained in Watt's ward, under surgeon Blake four months, and during the time had several pieces of shattered bone taken from my leg; and at length it being to all appearance well, I was accordingly discharged. The cure, however, did not prove of any long duration, the bone being being very much injured, and my blood continuing in a bad state, it soon broke out again. In this situation, without any place of refuge, or means of subsistence, I was advised to petition his Royal Highness the Duke of York for relief; and accordingly applied to a gentleman, who drew up a petition, stating the various hardships I had undergone by sea and land,

land, and got it signed by her Grace the Dutchess of Devonshire, and Sir William Pulteney; I left it at the Horse Guards, with Captain Nowell, secretary to his Royal Highness. In less than a fortnight, I called at the Horse Guards, and received from Captain Nowell five guineas, with my petition signed by his Royal Highness, as well as her Royal Highness the Duchess of York, and directions, when I called, that I should present it to her Majesty. I afterwards got it signed by Sir James Pulteney; and through Mr. Dundas, meant to have presented it to her Majesty; I taking the opportunity of a court day to give it to him for that purpose, as he was passing to the royal apartments; he remarking it was not intended for him, I told him no—but I wished him to present it to her Majesty from myself, and accordingly left it with him.

Not hearing any thing in consequence of my petition, and the money I had received from his Royal Highness the Duke of York, being expended, I for my present support, thought if I could obtain a machine similar to the one I observed the German use in the prison of St. Clair, with which he manufactured the gold wire, I might obtain a comfortable subsistence; and for that purpose I called on Mr. Loyer, a jeweller in Denmark-street, St. Giles's, in order, if possible, to get a machine from my description, made. Mr. Loyer, from my instructions, soon produced an instrument that every way answered the purpose; and having informed him of the purpose to which it was intended, he informed me, if I would manufacture it in his house, he had no doubt he could from his connection, dispose of enough to keep me constantly employed. I made no objection to his proposal, and worked gold wire in various shapes, so much to his satisfaction, that I continued in his employ some time. Mr. Loyer keeping a number of persons employed, myself, as well as others, worked together; among whom

was

was a German, named Hieronimo, who, observing the manner in which I worked, afterwards practised it as part of his profession, and worked on the same, during the time I continued in Mr. Loyer's employ. Finding the money I received not adequate to support me in a proper manner, my wounded leg getting so bad as to put me to considerable inconvenience, I applied to Mr. Loyer for an advancement of price, which, he objecting to, knowing he had Hieronimo to work it if I left him, we parted; before which, being jealous I should learn every thing in the jewellery business, having been able to work in more branches than the one he engaged me for, he removed me for some time previous to my quitting him, to a separate apartment from the shop, where I worked by myself.

On my quitting Mr. Loyer's, my leg getting worse, I gained admission to St. George's hospital, and experienced a tedious confinement of seven months. Being carefully attended by surgeons Keate, and Griffiths; and while thus situated, was enabled to enjoy many comforts which this charitable institution does not supply, from the benevolent attention of Mrs. Emma Raynes, a lady to whom I shall ever confess an obligation; as, immediately on my obtaining a discharge from the hospital, she provided me with a decent lodging in Tottenham Court-Road, and supported me for a considerable time at her own expence, though I had no other claim to her protection than my necessitous condition, prompted her attention to. Previous to my finding a friend in this lady, it was judged by several in the hospital, from the low state I was reduced to, (my bones coming almost through the skin) I should not get over the illness under which I laboured, from the pain of my wounded limb, and I procured some little necessaries from a subscription made by the young gentlemen, pupils, who attend the hospital;

one of whom, named Saife, (I imagine) in joke, offered me half a crown a week while I lived, to have my body when dead : however he might mean it, I knew not, but it produced such an aversion to physic in me, that while I remained under cure, I would take no more medicine, fearing it would hasten my death; and I remarked, my wound healed faster than before. Weary of the hospital, I solicited a discharge, though my leg was by no means well; and through the kindness of Mrs. Raynes, had every necessary provided for my use. Unwilling to remain a burthen on the generosity of this lady, longer than I could possibly help myself, I came to a resolution of making my sufferings known to some persons of distinction, (having heard nothing relative to the petition I had left in the hands of Mr. Dundas, to be presented to her Majesty.) I wrote immediately to his grace the Duke of Norfolk, whose humane and charitable disposition is too well known, for me to enlarge on. The result of my application was successful, as I received a very handsome present from his grace, to whom I was introduced, after waiting some time in the library.

This seasonable relief was to me of the greatest service, though in part it placed me under a very embarrassing circumstance. Fearing my little fund would be exhausted before I could get another supply, I endeavoured, as far as my circumstances would admit, to make as decent an appearance as possible, that I might more readily appear before the illustrious personages who had recommended the presentation of my petition to her Majesty, and to obtain, if possible, a knowledge, whether it had been presented by Mr. Dundas, or not. At this time I had removed from the lodging provided me by Mrs. Raynes to another near Rathbone Place; and having at times, previous to my removal, wore a little powder in my hair when-

ever I had occasion to call at the houses of Noble persons, to whom I had made my case known, I was informed against as an unqualified person, having no license, through the malice of my last landlady's sister, and received a summons to attend the Commissioners of the Stamp Office, from the solicitor Mr. Escourt, in Feb. 1799,—to answer the accusation; under this situation, without money or a friend to come forward on my behalf, I attended on the day mentioned, in the notice I had received, and set up in my defence to the accusation, that I had never worn powder as an article of dress though I had frequently made use of it in defence of my King and Country; this assertion from a female excited the curiosity of the Commissioners; who questioned me, under what circumstance, I could make use of powder in the way understood from my speech, when I related the several incidents of my life, in the land, as well as sea service, likewise my examination at Bow Street, after applying for my pay at the Navy Office. On concluding my defence, and remarking the distress of my present situation, the Commissioners, and other gentlemen present made a handsome collection, and presented me with it to the extreme mortification of the informer, who rather expected a share of the penalty she supposed I should be under the necessity of paying, than, that her spite against me should turn out so much to my advantage; on the contrary, my late landlady her sister, expressed herself greatly pleased with the fortunate turn in my favour; and her sincerity I did not doubt, from the many little kindnesses I had before experienced from her. Mr. Escourt the gentleman from whom I received the notice to attend on the Commissioners, gave me a letter to Evan Nepean, Esq. of the Admiralty, on what subject I knew not, but rather suppose to be in relation to myself; which though I delivered at the Admiralty

Office, I never heard any thing of after. To avoid as much as possible future disagreeables, and to obtain a sum which might enable me to establish myself in a little comfort, I thought on the petition I had long since left in the hands of Mr. Dundas; and as it was originally recommended to be presented to her Majesty, by the message I had received from his Royal Highness the Duke of York, I resolved to wait on his Highness at Oatlands, to inform him I had never received an answer to his royal recommendation; on my arrival at Oatlands, I sent in my name and business, by one of the attendants on his Royal Highness—and received in answer a guinea, and a message that his Royal Highness would make an immediate enquiry concerning where the petition lay; and as I had left a direction where I lodged in town, a few days after, I received a quantity of female apparel from Oatlands—sent as I imagine by order of her Royal Highness the Dutchess of York.

It will naturally strike many of my readers, the long silence I have kept with regard to Mr. Shuker, particularly as he was the only person, who could have informed me of many circumstances relative to my family, and interests; I need not offer as an excuse for my negligence in this particular, “that I had been so much occupied by a variety of circumstances, each following the other, with a rapidity, as wholly to prevent, had it been my intention, an earlier seeking his explanation.” I had in a great measure been prevented applying to Mr. Shuker before, in consequence of Messrs. Winter and Hay, of Long Acre, through the recommendation of Justice Bond, having taken the trouble of writing to Mr. Wilson of Trevallyn, several times, for the particulars relating to my birth and expectations; but as he never obtained an answer to either of the letters sent, I thought it best to apply to Mr. Shuker in person. During the doubt I remained under with respect to the  
success

success of my petition, I determined to pay this gentleman a visit, and went to Shrewsbury, by the Mail; and put up at the Talbot, kept at that time by Mr. Purslow, I then proceeded to Newport, Mr. Shuker's residence, in a return chaise; but finding a difficulty of being introduced to him as a female, not chusing to send in my name, but that a lady wished to speak with him, which not succeeding to my expectation I returned to Shrewsbury, and procured an Ensign's uniform of a person in Dog Lane, who dealt in cloaths from London; not wishing to change my dress at Mr. Purslow's, where I was known, I went to the Raven Inn, in Raven Street, where I changed my female attire, for the one I had procured the loan of—in which dress I walked to the Elephant and Castle, in Mardol, and hiring a horse, rode back to Newport. When I called at Mr. Shuker's house, I sent a message in by a servant, that a gentleman wished to speak with Mr. Shuker, and in return received an answer to send in my name and business; on which I replied, I waited on him, knowing Captain Bowen of the 82d Regiment, and had something particular to communicate; on which I was immediately introduced to him, and though labouring under considerable agitation, I asked him if he knew a Miss Talbot, or could inform me what had become of her; he said he had known her well, but, that she died abroad in the year 1793. of which he was well informed by letters in his possession, I told him I doubted the fact, and wished to see the letters mentioned, which he evaded; I then asked him if she had any particular mark, or that he should know her well enough to swear to her person, if he was to see her; he replied he could identify her, among a thousand, that she was a twin, and had a deficiency on the left side of her forehead, I immediately put my hair aside, and pointed my

finger, to the part of my forehead he had described, and briskly drawing my sword, declared he was my prisoner, and should account to me for the deficiency of what I supposed he had defrauded me. I informed him that I was Miss Talbot, and had visited him, for the express purpose of obtaining the property he had certainly deprived me of, knowing, that when I was entrusted to his care, he had a sufficient indemnification for what trouble or expence he might be put to, and had no doubt something considerable in trust for my use; he appeared surprised and confounded, and uttering, he was a ruined man repeatedly, he trembled much, and abruptly quitted the room; I was myself greatly agitated, but conceiving myself so much injured, I immediately went to Shrewsbury in order to take a lawyer's advice how I should proceed, and applied to a Mr. Locksdale, who unfortunately was from home; getting no satisfactory intelligence, I returned to Newport with a determination, if possible, to get from Mr. Shuker, an information of my family, connections, and expectation. When I arrived at Newport, I learnt to my great disappointment, that Mr. Shuker had suddenly retired from his house, and in less than three days from the time, was found dead in his bed at a place called Longford, near Newport, without any previous appearance of illness. Thus frustrated in gaining the intelligence I so much needed, I left the place in great distress of mind, with a scanty pittance in my pocket, which wholly prevented my proceeding to Mr. Wilson's, at Trevallyn, which I otherwise should have done, though his wilful neglect in answering the letters sent by Messrs. Winter and Hay, left me in great doubt as to the reception he might have given me, I now took the road to London, where I soon arrived, without any other prospect than the uncertain hope of a better success with my petition, and thinking  
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some money was still due to me for pay, I applied to Lord Spencer, then first Lord of the Admiralty, and saw his Lordship, who presented me with a guinea, and it being in the morning, ordered me some refreshment; when I had an excellent breakfast prepared in an adjoining room.

My existence chiefly depended now, on the liberality of many Noble and generous persons, to whom I was necessitated to make my case known, and the frequent walks I was obliged to take in the course of the days I was so employed, caused the wounds of my leg to break out again, as wholly to deprive me of walking, many pieces of the shattered bone occasionally coming out of my leg; to remedy this, I got admitted into Middlesex hospital, and about a fortnight after my admission, I received a message from Justice Bond, to attend if possible at Bow Street, to confront a female, who, in the dress of a Light Horseman had taken the name of John Taylor, and represented herself in a way to be mistaken for me. I accompanied the person who brought me the letter to Bow Street, and saw a fine looking woman about five feet ten inches high, whom Mr. Bond desired me to question as to the situation she had occupied on board the Brunswick, where she reported to have been wounded; a very few questions brought her to a confession, that she was not the person she had pretended, and not giving a satisfactory account of herself, was committed to the House of Correction for three months, as a vagrant. William Richards, my fellow prisoner in France, chancing to pass in Bow Street, I called to him from the couch, and he went with me into the Office and offered to make oath as to my identity; but Mr. Bond informed him he was sufficiently satisfied who was the impostor. Several persons in the Office told me this woman had been imposing on the public in my name  
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for some time past, and congratulated me on her detection.

On my return from Bow Street, while getting out of the coach at the door of my lodging where I called previous to my return to the Hospital, I was followed into the passage by a Hair-dresser, named Spraggs, of Cleveland Street, who mistaking me for a lodger in the same house, with whom he had a dispute respecting a wig she had of him, struck me a violent blow which brought me to the ground, and cut my head in a shocking manner, and materially hurt my wounded leg by kicking me in the passage; I afterwards learnt the cause of his violence was, That he had sold a wig to a lady, and that she was prevented paying him, by the assertion of another Hair-dresser, that the wig was not his property to sell, but belonged to him, a Mr. Kennedy. Mr. Spraggs in consequence when he applied for payment, learnt the particulars; and not getting the money he expected, brought an action in the Marshalsea court, but was nonsuited by not attending to prove the wig his property. Thus disappointed, he took the above method of revenge, and in rage mistook the person; my friends advised me to get a warrant for the assault, and I immediately returned to Bow Street, where a warrant was granted me. Spraggs however kept out of the way for several days, but at last it was served on him, and he was obliged to find bail for his appearance at the Quarter Sessions, Clerkenwell Green;—by returning to Bow Street, on the day I left the hospital, I could not return there that night, and was obliged to wait till the regular day of taking in patients, before I could regain my former place in the hospital. When the trial came on at Clerkenwell, I was still in the hospital, but knowing the time it was to come on, I requested leave of absence from Surgeon Miners, which I obtained, and attended three days

days before my cause came on; Mr. Sylvester, the present Recorder of London pleaded my cause, without taking the least gratuity; on the contrary, when I attended him to state to him the case, he made me a handsome present. Very little defence was attempted in behalf of Spraggs, who was found guilty of the assault, and sentenced to pay me 10*l.* for the injury he had done. This trial over I returned to Middlesex hospital, and through the skill and attention of Surgeon Miners, I was once more enabled to use my wounded leg, though by no means given to understand I had obtained a radical cure. Soon after quitting the hospital, I received a notice to attend at the War Office, where I received a letter directed to Lord Morton, at Buckingham House; struck at once that it related to the petition I had left for her Majesty's sight, and which I imagined his Royal Highness the Duke of York had sought after, agreeable to the message I received at Oatlands. I went to Buckingham House, and saying I had a letter from the War Office for Lord Morton, was directly introduced to his Lordship, who, on reading the letter, informed me it related to my petition, and conducted me to another apartment, where I saw a lady seated, whose hand Lord Morton desired me to kiss; after which, I returned with his Lordship to the apartment I was first introduced to, and received five guineas from his Lordship's hands, on quitting Buckingham House.

The Lady whose hand I kissed did not ask me a question, or speak a word: I imagined it might be her Majesty, though Lord Morton had not mentioned any thing concerning her title or rank; but I was soon after confirmed in my opinion by recognizing in the sight of her Majesty in public, the lady whose hand I had the honour of kissing at Buckingham-house. Lord Morton directed me to apply to the war-office, where I was informed

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ed I must attend on a future day, in my sailor's dress, to receive a half-year's payment of her Majesty's bounty which I afterwards did, in the name of John Taylor though my name on the war-office book stood Taylor John. This was in August, 1799.

On my quitting Middlesex Hospital, Surgeon Miners informed me, my leg was not in a state to bear much walking, and the obligation I was under to attend in person, on many occasions, brought on the complaint in my leg as bad as ever; and I was recommended by John Bond, Esq. a Magistrate, of Hendon, in Middlesex, to go into Middlesex Hospital a second time Surgeon Miners was at Mr. Bond's at the time I was thus advised, and told me I must in all probability have my leg amputated: with this impression on my mind I entered the hospital a second time, and only escaped from thence without the loss of a limb, by a singular though in the first part, unfortunate circumstance:— I had previous to going into the hospital, taken under my care a motherless child of about three years of age which when out of my power now to attend, was protected by two young ladies, who soon after having an engagement to dine on board the *Sophia*, a West India man, lying off Hermitage Stairs, unfortunately took their little charge on the party, who, not being sufficiently attended to, fell overboard and was drowned. The intelligence no sooner reached me at the hospital, than frantic at the loss of the child, although my leg was surrounded with bandages in order for amputation, I the next morning by seven o'clock, October 24th, 1799, quitted the hospital, after taking off the screw bandage, and walked to Hermitage Stairs, in such distraction of mind that I felt neither pain or impediment in my leg the whole way. But on my arrival where the ship lay, I could gain no information of the body, and though I  
offered

offered every thing in my power as a reward to find it—but without effect, as the child was never after seen; it was afterwards suggested, and on reasonable grounds, that the child was not drowned, but carried to the West Indies; as a black boy on board, as well as he could be understood, gave me to understand the child was not drowned, but carried away. His name was George Lacon Griffin, and heir to a considerable estate in Shropshire; as I was informed by his father, Mr. George Griffin, a Carver and Gilder, burnt out in February, 1804, at No. 16, Charing Cross, who entrusted me with the care of the child; being himself under a pecuniary embarrassment, and in confinement at that time, by a bill he had accepted for a friend.

A few days after my leaving Middlesex Hospital a second time, the following paragraph appeared in the *Morning Herald* of November 1st, 1799:—"There is at present in the Middlesex Hospital, a young and delicate female, who calls herself Miss T—lb—t, and who is said to be related to some families of distinction; her story is very singular; at an early period of her life, having been deprived, through the villany of a trustee, of a sum of money bequeathed her by a deceased relation of high rank, she followed the fortunes of a young Naval Officer to whom she was attached, and personated a common sailor before the mast: during a cruise in the North Seas, in consequence of a lover's quarrel, she quitted her ship, and assumed for a time the military character; but her passion for the sea prevailing, she returned to her favourite element, and did good service, and received a severe wound on board Earl St. Vincent's ship, on the glorious 14th of February; and again bled in the cause of her country, in the engagement off Camperdown; on this occasion her knee was so shattered, that an amputation is likely to ensue. This spirited femal we,

understand, receives a pension of 20*l.* from an *Illustrious Lady*, which is about to be doubled." By whom this paragraph was inserted in the paper, I know not; but the reader will easily discover it could be no person who really knew my story, having quitted *Middlesex hospital* some time before; the only part that resembles truth is, of her Majesty's Bounty, which had not yet reached me; though in that particular the writer has been pleased to announce what I should be happy to receive:

I had not left *Middlesex Hospital* more than a fortnight, before I experienced new trouble and inconvenience in my leg; which, previous to my so sudden departure, by the melancholy loss of the unfortunate child, had been doomed to amputation, by the universal opinion of the surgeons; and to the general conversation on this subject, I attribute the spurious account of my adventures, which found its way to the *Morning Herald*. As I did not wait for a discharge from *Middlesex Hospital*, I felt a reluctance to apply there again for relief, but applied to the *St. Mary-le-bone Infirmary*, where I obtained an order, and was of course admitted:—here I continued almost four months; and after many pieces of the shattered bone had been extracted, and the flesh by continued rest, a little grown over, I consulted with Mr. Phillips, the principal Surgeon, whether I was not in a situation to quit the Infirmary; he told me that with care, and the use of bandages he would give me, I might do as well out as where I was, but desired I would walk as little as possible, while I found the least pain, as it would retard the healing of the flesh round the bone; and having obtained the bandages of Mr. Waller the House Surgeon, I immediately thought of quitting the Infirmary; but having made myself useful towards the latter part of the time I was there, in keeping account of cloaths, and marking a variety of articles, for the use of the Infirmary and

and Parish; Dr. Hooper, the principal of the House, objected to my departure, which notwithstanding I insisted on, and in consequence came away; and as Dr. Hooper said he would report me to the Board, I told him I would save him the trouble, and went the following Friday, and stated the whole affair myself, which being satisfactory to the Gentlemen present, I received two guineas, and well pleased left the place. One of the gentlemen said, he knew Mrs. Tapperly, of Chester, well, and that he had a daughter under her care, during the time I was with her, adding that he knew I was related to the family whose name I bore, and following me out, made me a present of a guinea, and I have since, whenever he met me, experienced some mark of his liberality.

Having engaged a lodging in that neighbourhood, I removed the whole of my wearing apparel, which in all situations I had hitherto taken the utmost care of, to this place. But as if I was to be stripped and persecuted through life, one morning while in bed, I was robbed of every article I possessed in the world, and but for the kindness of some ladies at the next house, should have been without an article to wear: a woman who lived with a trumpeter of the Dragoon Guards, was soon after taken up on suspicion of robbing another person, and having in her possession a great quantity of false keys, and duplicates of property in pawn; I attended her examination at Marlborough Street, and discovered several of the duplicates to describe my property; I was desired to attend on her trial, as a witness, though in applying to the pawnbrokers where she had pledged them, I was informed the same was taken away by an affidavit of the loss of the duplicates: she was however found guilty of the robbery taken up for, and sentenced to be transported for seven years.

A little time after this affair, I received a half year's

payment from her Majesty's bounty, and not forgetting former frolics of which I was not yet entirely cured, I went out in company of a person I knew, in male attire; after walking some time, it was proposed to take a tankard of porter, and we went into a public house the corner of Berwick Street, Oxford Road, while drinking, I was accosted by a Recruiting Serjeant of the 21st regiment of Light Dragoons, whose name I understood was Jones, who, thinking from my appearance and conversation, I was a fit subject for his purpose, used every endeavour, by praising the life of a horse soldier, of inveigling me to enlist; finding the attempt fruitless, and doubting to effect it by persuasion, he had recourse to artifice, and proposed tossing with me for a pot of porter, taking a guinea from his pocket and tossing it on the table, thought I might take it up; but perceiving the drift of his intention, I gave him to understand, I was not so easily to be taken in; my friend also joining me, a dispute was likely to ensue, but instantly leaving the house, he followed us the distance of several streets, and seemed very reluctantly to give up the pursuit.

Many professions struck my imagination to take up as a livelihood, but none appeared more congenial to my mind than the theatrical line, to which I was ever particularly attached; knowing a person belonging to the Thespian Society, held in Tottenham-court-road, I got introduced to perform a character, and attempted that of Floranthe, in the Mountaineers, which I got through with considerable applause; Mr. Talbot, afterwards of Drury Lane Theatre, performed the part of Octavian, and Miss Mortimer of Covent Garden Theatre, played Agnes; I afterwards performed the parts of Adeline, in the Battle of Hexham; Lady Helen, in the Children in the Wood; Juliet, in Romeo and Juliet; Irene, in Barbarossa; Thyra, in Athelston; the Queen, in Richard the Third;



#### RECEIVES A STRANGE ORDER FOR MONEY. 293.

Third; Mrs. Scout in the Village Lawyer, and Jack Hawser in Banyan Day: finding this pursuit however, more pleasant than profitable, I was compelled to give it up, and solicit assistance towards my support, from several respectable persons to whom I had made my adventures and sufferings known.

A remarkable circumstance which I cannot by any means omit, as it had nearly involved me in a situation, more dangerous than any I had hitherto encountered; about the time my adventures attracted the attention of the first characters in the kingdom, I had received several sums of money from persons, who at the time, did not discover to whom I was obliged; and one evening a gentleman called at my lodgings, and on being introduced to my apartments, asked me if I was the person who had suffered so many hardships abroad? I replied in the affirmative; when he informed me Colonel Gerrit Fisher, of the 9th regiment of foot, had been particularly inquiring concerning me, and he had no doubt it would produce something considerable to my advantage; he shortly took his leave, and about a month after, called in my absence, and left with Mrs. Cornish, who kept a shop at No. 14, Suffolk Street, at which house I lodged, an order signed by Colonel Fisher, on Messrs. Cox and Co. Craig's Court, Charing Cross, for nine guineas, saying at the same time, it was the amount of money received in subscription for my use, by Colonel Fisher; he also left a complimentary note, in which he stiled himself Captain Grant, and was accompanied by a person who was introduced to me to be a servant of Colonel Fisher's, and confirmed what Grant said: this order came as I then thought, providentially to my aid, but it being holiday time, I waited a few days, after which in company with Mrs. Cornish, I presented it for payment as directed, but was informed Colonel Fisher was out of town,

town, and they could not pay it; very much disappointed, I returned home, and as I did not hear when the Colonel was expected in town, it was a considerable time after that I thought of calling on him respecting the transaction, which at length I did, at his house, No. 5, Manchester Square, Feb. 2d, 1802; on saying I wished to speak with Colonel Fisher on business, he came into the passage, and understanding in part what I had to say, introduced me into the parlour, where I saw a lady seated, who I afterwards found was the Colonel's lady, I now presented him with the note, and asked him if it was his hand writing, on reading it over, he asked me how I came by it, when I told him it was left at my apartments by a gentleman, who said it was the amount of what Colonel Fisher had raised in subscription for me; he Colonel requested a description of the gentleman's person, and gave me pen and ink to write it down, on which I first described the gentleman who had called, and reported Colonel Fisher's interesting himself on my account, and was about to write the particulars down, when Mrs. Fisher prevented me, by saying to the Colonel, "It surely must be Gardiner," to which he made no reply, but putting the order in his waistcoat pocket, said he would take care of it, though he did not give me a shilling; a few days after, he called at my lodgings, and seeing Mrs. Cornish, asked her who, and what I was, and whether she did not think I had forged the order? Mrs. Cornish then related the same particulars of my possessing the order, as I had before informed him. He then left the house, telling Mrs. Cornish if she had not given a good account of the way the draught was left, he should have prosecuted us both for a forgery.—I afterwards called at his house, and sending up my name, was told by a servant, my business required no answer, since when, I have never heard any thing of him or his order.

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Whether or not the order was of Colonel Fisher's hand writing, or a trick played on me by the man who styled himself Captain Grant, I never could learn, but as the Clerks of Cox and Co. must have been acquainted with the hand writing of the Colonel, and never attempted to stop it, or say it was a forgery, I cannot bring myself to think it was so; nor did the Colonel himself say to me it was not his writing, only questioned how I came by it.

With the certainty of my income from her Majesty's bounty, I removed to the neighbourhood of Whitechapel, sometime previous to my waiting on Colonel Fisher; and having been ever more remiss in my own accounts than those of others, the landlady where I had taken my abode, brought me in a bill for lodging, &c. amounting to 11*l.* 3*s.* 6*d.* which being incapable of paying, I was arrested at her suit in the court of Exchequer, and after remaining at a lock-up house, in Carey Street, Lincoln's Inn-fields, a week, and being sufficiently tired of the expence, I was removed to Newgate, though not before I had been enabled by a friend to offer down six guineas in part of the debt, which was rejected; a new scene in life now opened to my view, and finding many of my fellow prisoners of a congenial temper with my own, I frequently joined in parties of conviviality hardly to be credited in this place; these pleasures however were confined to a certain time, as my station in the women's ward, compelled a separation by ten o'clock, at which hour, the wards are separately locked.

At one of these meetings I was very near being turned out of the prison, as a stranger; having accepted the office of president on a club-night, I equipped myself in a suit of men's cloaths, and took the chair; after passing a few pleasant hours in the midst of our singing, smocking, and drinking, the time of separation arrived; when  
returning

returning to the women's side, I was followed in by Mr. White, the principal turnkey, who asked my business, and mistaking me for a stranger, visiting some of the prisoners, conducted me into the lobby in order to turn me out; but on my remonstrance that I was a prisoner, and telling my name, he threatened to send me to the felons' side for attempting an escape in disguise, to which purpose he went and informed Mr. Kirby, the keeper, who shortly after coming into the lobby, I explained to him the whole of the transaction, adding, that having been used to a male dress in defence of my country, I thought I was sufficiently entitled to wear the same whenever I thought proper; at the same time shewing him the wounds I had received; he directed Mr. White to conduct me to the women's side as usual, and in a day or two after, sent for me to relate to him the whole of my adventures, with which he seemed so well pleased, that he sent for me two or three times after when he had company, from whom I received some handsome presents.

I was advised to petition the Society for relief of persons confined for small debts, and having obtained the form of a letter I should send, got it conveyed, with respectable vouchers as to the truth of my memorial: five pounds was sent to Mr. Kirby for the purpose of settling the debt, but if the plaintiff refused that sum, it was to be returned to that charitable institution. Mrs. Nicklin, was however too good a judge to refuse so good an offer, and accordingly took the money, which was given to her friend Mr. Edmonds, on bringing my discharge; his expences must have swallowed the greatest part of the above sum; and my landlady was well off in not being troubled herself by her own attorney, which must have been the case, if she had refused the sum offered,

offered, as I was determined to have sued her as soon as I could, for the sixpences.

My time in Newgate was rendered more comfortable than I had any reason to expect, from the constant attention of a female who had lived with me some time previous to my being arrested, for when no longer in my power to support her in a way I had been accustomed, instead of quitting me, remained in the prison, and by needle work she obtained, contributed greatly to my support, she has continued with me ever since, and remains a constant friend in every change I have since experienced.

By an accidental mistake in arranging the notes I had made in the course of my narrative, the annexed circumstances appear out of the order, they should have been inserted; in order to rectify, as far as possible, the defect, I have referred back, to the leading occurrences with which they are connected:

“When I was about nine years of age, my sister took me from Chester, to Trevalyn, on a visit for a few days; I had taken her to be my mother; and whenever speaking to her, called her as such: one day while in her own room she opened a kind of cabinet, and taking a miniature of a lady from a drawer, I asked her who it was? she burst into tears, and told me she was not my mother; but that lady was, represented in the picture; whose daughter she also was, and my only surviving sister; and would endeavour to discharge the duty of both in herself towards me. The miniature represented a female of a small size and a very delicate appearance, with a remarkable blue spot on the forehead between the eyes; which though I never saw afterwards, is so strongly imprinted on my mind, that nothing has been able to erase from my memory: my sister was so much agitated on the occasion, as not to have told me my mother’s

name and family, of which I remain in ignorance to the present hour; though I have been informed of a family to whom my mother belonged, whose name, I do not think proper to make use of, not having as I think, sufficient authority to assert as proof."

"While on board the *Vesuvius*, we encountered a most tremendous storm, in which I was employed on an occasion that I can never think of, without reflecting, how much hardships in youth, a human being can sustain;—it was necessary for some one on board, to go to the gib-boom, to catch the jib sheet, which in the gale had got loose; the continual lungeing of the ship rendered this duty particularly hazardous, and not a seaman on board, but rejected this office; I acting on board in the capacity of Midshipman, though I never received pay on board this ship, but as a common man: I mention this circumstance only, that it was not my particular duty to have undertaken the task, which on the refusal of several who were asked, and the preservation of us all depending on this exertion, I voluntarily undertook the charge: on reaching the jib-boom, I was under the necessity of lashing myself fast to it; for the ship every minute making a fresh lunge, without such a precaution I should inevitably have been washed away, the surges continually breaking over me, and I suffered an uninterrupted wash and fatigue for six hours, before I could quit the post I had so willingly occupied: but danger over, a sailor has little thought of reflections; and my messmates who had witnessed the perilous danger I was placed in, passed it off in a joke, "that I had only been *sipping sea-broth*;" but it was broth of a quality that though most scamen relish, yet few I imagine would like to take in the quantity I was compelled."

"The following anecdote, roused reflections which led me to seek a regular employment, and caused my application

cation to Mr. Loyer, by whom I was afterwards engaged."

"With the money I had received from Captain Field, of the *Ariel*, I frequented the theatres, and houses about Covent Garden, where I became known to persons of every description as a good companion; among others, I had formed an acquaintance with Haines, the well known highwayman, who some time after was hung in chains, on Hounslow Heath, for shooting one of the Bow Street Officers, who was about to apprehend him. This man I did not know followed so dangerous an occupation; but one evening, when my cash was nearly exhausted, I met him at a well known house in Covent Garden, known by the name of the *Finish*; being out of spirits, he questioned me as to the cause; I told him, I had lived so freely since I came on shore, that my cash was quite exhausted, and I was racking my imagination to get a fresh supply. He clapped his hand on my shoulder and exclaimed, "D——n it my fine fellow, I'll put you up to the best way in the world to get the supply you stand in need of;"—we left the house, and while walking, he proposed I should join him, on an excursion to take a purse on the road; and observing my sailor's habit was not calculated to the occasion, furnished me with money to buy Buckskin small clothes, &c. necessary for the purpose. The road we were to take was not settled, but our meeting was fixed for the next night; I got the Buckskin small clothes at Ford's, in the Strand, and a pair of boots from Newcomb, in Pall Mall. At the hour appointed, I met Haines at a livery stable behind the New Church, in the Strand, and found him in company with six more persons, all of whom I understood had met on the same business, though intending to take different roads; I was to accompany Haines, who furnished me with a pair of pistols, which he told me

cost three guineas; when every thing was ready for our departure, a sudden recollection of the danger and dishonour of this undertaking, providentially came to my aid; and I informed Haines how very reluctant I was to break an engagement, or my word in any particular; yet when I considered the consequence of the business in hand, I could not think of accompanying him, however far I had gone on the occasion; at the same time remarked, it was not the danger of the enterprise I dreaded, but the certain shame attached to a dishonourable action; the principles of a state of warfare I should not mind, but never deliberately would act the part of a *Pirate*. He endeavoured to divert my resolution, and seemed very mad, and inclined to quarrel, which I think was only stopped, by a knowledge of the situation he stood in; I left the place congratulating myself on so narrow an escape, without farther opposition; though I saw Haines afterwards, he never took the least notice of the affair, and I took care for the future what company I got connected with."

"About the time of my working at Mr. Loyer's, I got acquainted in my male dress, with a person that informed me he was Vice-grand at a Lodge of Odd Fellows, held at the Harlequin, near the stage door of Drury Lane Theatre; this person discovering in me, a conviviality, agreeable to such an undertaking, proposed my becoming one of their members; and as there was a meeting of their Lodge that evening, he said he would propose me as a new member, I readily accepting his offer, we adjourned to the place, where I went through the whole of the forms used on such occasion, and became a free member of the society of Odd Fellows, Lodge 21. Neither the person who introduced me, or any of the members knowing my sex. It is the boast of masquary, that they never had more than one female belonging



longing their institution (namely Queen Elizabeth); and I think I may fairly challenge any Lodge of Odd Fellows, to produce another female member: it being generally thought, there is not a female in England (myself excepted) belonging to this society."

"I omitted to relate while on board the Crown transport, Captain Bishop; on our voyage to St. Domingo after the storm we suffered in, for want of provisions and water, we put in for repairs, up the windward passage, on the Musquito shore, and on one of the islands that distinguish this place, the boatswain and part of the ship's company, seven in number, of which I was one, went on shore to forage, and perceiving a bear, which the boatswain said was of the Hyena kind, approaching us in a retrograde position, he fired at it when near us, and killed it; having been so long kept on scanty allowance, we immediately opened our prize, and took out the heart, for fresh provision, the hams we conveyed on board, and committed them to the pickle tub for curing: before quitting the island, we proceeded farther on the search after water, and fell in with a party of the barbarous natives, who make a practice of scalping the unfortunate victims that fall into their hands; these people approaching us in a menacing manner, we fired on them, and killed one, on which the remainder fled with precipitation towards the sea; on coming up to the dead man, we found he was naked, except a whisp round his body, like a bay-band, his hair was long, black, and strong as horse hair, and in height about six feet, and proportionably lusty; he was armed with a tomahawk, or scalping hatchet, with which every one of his companions that fled were each furnished, and no more clad than their deceased friend. These weapons hung dangling to their bay-band like girdles, which we observed from some

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of the party not having taken them in their hand for use; these people were of a tawny complexion."

"At the time of my employ by Mr. Loyer, I put on my seaman's dress and accompanied the procession, when their Majesties went to St. Paul's, and the different colours of the enemy, went to be hung up in St. Paul's Church, as trophies of the victories obtained over their arms, by Howe, St. Vincent, and Duncan; I made part of Lord Howe's attendants with his colours, and rode on the car, the chains of the bracelets her Majesty wore on the occasion, were made by me, at Mr. Loyer's, by order from Messrs. Gray and Constable, Jewellers of Sackville Street, Piccadilly."

"It was my intention, to insert the whole of the letters and family papers relative to my adventures, but have been deprived giving any at present, by an unforeseen accident, but shall be published in this work, as soon as ever recovered. The ensuing statement being the only cause of delay, will, I trust, be a sufficient excuse to every candid reader, by the difficulties I labour under; no other cause would have delayed their publication."

"Soon after I quitted Newgate my troubles began again; a Mr. E——, not far from Pump Court in the Temple, employed me to wash, mend, &c. he becoming indebted to me thirty-eight pounds for that, and money, I had pledged my wearing apparel to lend him, though I have reason to think he is a man of property, I was under the necessity of arresting him to recover the same. I had received five pounds, and a letter from him at the same time, saying, "he would settle with me honourably;" not keeping his word was the cause of the arrest, and being at this time in the greatest distress through his proceedings, and the want of money and cloaths, I took lodgings at the house of Mr. Joseph Bradley, No. 19, Little St.

. Mary-le-bone Street, who is Butler, and has been for any years to a gentleman in Gloucester Place, Hyde Park Corner: being in arrear for one week's rent, five shillings and sixpence, Mrs. Bradley, his wife, stopped at only my trunk, containing the whole of my letters and papers, but some needle work I had to do for another person, which had she suffered me to carry home, would have nearly paid her demand; I summoned her to the work to Marlborough Street, but the Magistrate saying, they had a right to stop all they could lay their hands on, I was advised to arrest Mr. Bradley in an action of trover, as being deprived of the work, which they still hold, with my family letters and papers, which would have proved my debt against Mr. E——; this advice I followed, and Mr. Bradley was arrested—in the mean time, Mr. E—— took the opportunity of entering a non pros to my action; by not having it in my power to produce the papers necessary to prove the debt, which will compel me to enter a fresh process against him, as soon as I can recover my papers, when his mast appear."

"I employed Mr. Worley, an attorney at No. 25, in Bell's Street, Oxford Road, who directly sued out a writ against Bradley, which by some means was not served on him that term; before the next, he was arrested at my suit, and gave bail to Mr. Weekly the officer, for his appearance, which was entered at the commencement of the term, in order to go to trial; my Attorney Mr. Worley, on whom I called several times, informed me, he would let me know, when I should be wanted to attend, and in the mean time said, if I would procure two pounds, he would establish me as a pauper, that I might proceed, without a necessity for more money. The above sum a gentleman advanced me for the purpose Mr. Worley had asked it, and on my paying it into his hands, said, he would immediately proceed in the cause, and told me it would

would come on, the present term. The money I gave him on Wednesday April 11th, 1804, and called by his appointment on Friday the 13th; not seeing him, I called the next day with no better success; as he told me it certainly would come on the present term, I became extremely anxious to see him, and called on Monday the 16th, still I could not meet with him, and continued till twelve o'clock at night in the neighbourhood, calling at his house four times during that period; the only answer I could get, was, he had not been at home that day; the next morning April the 17th, I called and saw him, when he told me my action had suffered a non-pros on the 7th of March, though I have repeatedly seen him before and since that time, he never informed me of the circumstance till that moment, by which I was deprived going to trial; greatly shocked and disappointed, I told him I should inform the gentleman from whom I had received the money, the whole of the transaction; on which he waited on Mr. Worley, and was informed, the money I had given him, he had carried to my account. Thus situated, with only part of my letters in my own possession, it is out of my power to give them at present, but having the promise of a friend to see me righted, Mr. Bradley, unless inclined to give my papers up, must be served with another process to compel him."

Nothing but troubles, and misfortunes for the two last years of my life, having occurred, and followed me step; by step, I have only to apologize to my readers, for any deviation from the paths of propriety, which only to my feelings, could have happened by the greatest necessity, and the deepest distress, and I trust I shall gain their pity, rather than censure, when I assert, had I been brought up in a workhouse, or any other situation to have gained my bread in the most humble manner, I should have preferred it, to the number of misfortunes  
and

and difficulties, I have been doomed to encounter, as my wounds and other afflictions have rendered me incapable of almost every exertion to get a livelihood.

Having described as minute as possible, the leading circumstances of my adventures, I submit the whole to the decision of my readers, with a solemn assurance, that in no particular have I advanced any thing but matters of fact; which, if they should in any way serve as a lesson to future guardians and those under their care, in avoiding the troubles I have experienced, will answer one end to which they were made public by their unfortunate sufferer,

MARY ANN TALBOT.

#### ERRATA.

For "Lord Talbot," read, "Ezal Talbot," created 1761.

"For Mr. Shuker," read "Sucker."

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

I inclose for insertion, (if deemed worthy a place) in your truly original Museum, a few articles for your approbation; in selecting any of which suited to your publication, you will gratify the endeavours of your occasional correspondent.

April, 1804.

A.

#### A VIOLENT ASTHMA CURED BY A MUSKET BALL.

WILLIAM MASTERS, Esq. who died in March, 1709, was a Colonel under the old Duke of Cumberland; and in one of the engagements was shot through the lungs by a musket-ball, which intirely cured him of a violent asthma.—The Duke used to say, when any of his officers laboured under that disorder, that they must get shot through the lungs like Masters.

**A SHEPHERD'S BOY HANGED BY HIS WHIP.**

**I**N November 1798, as John Clench, a Sheep-boy to Mr. Frost, of Kelvendon, Essex, was descending from a tree in which he had climbed to cut a branch in order to stop a gap, his whip which he, in his accustomed manner, had slung round his neck when within six inches of the ground caught between the bough, and suspended him. In this manner he was found hanging and quite dead.

**A BOY HANGED IN A TOWEL.**

**I**N July, 1798, as the servant-boy of the Rev. John Prior, at Ashby de la Zouch was wiping himself with a rolled towel in the back kitchen, he unfortunately slipped down a step, by which means his neck became so much entangled in the towel, that it was immediately dislocated; and he was soon after discovered by the family entirely lifeless—proper means were instantly used to recover him, but without effect.

**A WOMAN DELIVERED OF SIX CHILDREN.**

**I**N January, 1798, the wife of Pierre Francois Duissans, in the Commune of Verchocq, l'Department du pas de Calais, was delivered, before she had gone her full time, of six children, three boys and three girls; they were all alive at the time of their birth, but died soon after.

**A WONDERFUL DISCOVERY OF A SKELETON OF A MAN  
IN A TREE.**

**T**HE beginning of April, 1804, as some boys were seeking after owls for their amusement, they discovered at the bottom of a hollow tree, in the parish of Blockley, in Worcestershire, close by the side of a brook which divides the counties of Worcester and Gloucester, the intire skeleton of apparently a stout and tall man, the skull being  
very

very large, and the leg and thigh bones of great length ; in the shoes (which were in a dry and hard state,) were found the bones of the toes, and the nails in the shoes were so decayed, as on being touched, to fall off, and with the fingers were easily pulverised. It is difficult to conjecture how the body came there ; but from the appearance of the tree and other circumstances, the probability seems to be, that the deceased secreted himself in the tree, which is hollow from the top to the bottom, from whence he could not afterwards extricate himself ; and as the shoe of the right foot was considerably turned up, and retained strong marks of the pressure of the buckle, it may be inferred from thence, that efforts had been made by the unfortunate man to release himself from so deplorable a situation.



## ATROCIOUS MURDERERS.

**N**OTWITHSTANDING the boasted accuracy of the French police, enormities of almost every description are daily and hourly committed in the neighbourhood of their commissaries, with impunity. Before the revolution in that country, it is a fact well established,—that never a street robbery was committed in Paris, but it was accompanied by a murder ; that the practice is not discontinued under the all-wise administration of Buonaparté, we may readily conjecture by the recent information of the following shocking relation :

On the 6th of March, 1804, a gentleman was accosted in the street St. Martin, at Paris, by a beautiful little girl, about six years of age. She was covered with rags, and told him, that her mother was dying of want in the fifth floor of a house in the same street, and that for herself, she had not ate a morsel for forty-eight hours. Touched with compassion, the gentleman said he would follow her home, and if he found her story true, relieve

her and her mother.—On entering the room, he saw a woman laying on a bed laid on straw, instead of a mattress. Her looks and voice seemed to confirm the story of the child. In taking his purse from his pocket, it fell down by accident on the floor; stooping to take it up, he saw clearly a man under the bed. Alarmed, but without losing his presence of mind, he said—"Good woman, here are four crowns; I have no more about me; but let your child accompany me home, I will give her twenty more." Instead of returning to his lodgings, he took the child to a police commissary; where, after some examination, she acknowledged, that the person under the bed was her father, and that, within the last fortnight, during which they had lodged in the street St. Martin, six persons had been stabbed by him, plundered and stripped; that two corpse had been carried out by him after dark, some nights before, and thrown into the river; but that four corpse yet remained in the closet behind the bed.—The police commissary, with the gentlemen, and some gens-d'armes, went immediately to the house, but they found nothing but the four corpse in the closet. The man and woman were gone, and have not yet been heard of.—In consequence of the discovery made by the child, six former lodgings of this cruel couple have been traced, where, according to her report, and several other circumstances within the knowledge of the police, during the last winter, no less than twenty-two persons of both sexes, are supposed to have been murdered by them. It was the custom of the woman, as from gratitude, to take hold of her benefactor's hands, and draw them to her lips as she lay in bed, when the man stole behind, and stabbed them through their backs.—Mad. Murat has taken the child under her protection, and pays for her education.



*An extraordinary MOVEMENT of the EARTH, near Colebrook, in Shropshire.*

A most remarkable incident happened near Colebrook, on Thursday morning, May 27, 1773, about four o'clock. About 4000 yards from the river Severn stood a house, where a family dwelt; the man got up about three o'clock, and heard a rumbling noise, and felt the ground shake under him; on which he called up his family. They perceived the ground begin to move, but knew not which way to run; however, the people took to their heels, and just as they had got to an adjacent wood, the ground they had left separated from that on which they stood. They first observed a small crack in the ground about four or five inches wide, and a field that was sown with oats to heave up and roll about like waves of water; the trees moved as if blown with wind, but the air was calm and serene; the river Severn (in which at that time was a considerable flood) was agitated very much, and the current seemed to run upwards. They perceived a great crack run very quick up the ground from the river. Immediately about 30 acres of land, with the hedges and trees standing (except a few that were overturned), moved with great force and swiftness towards the Severn, attended with great and uncommon noise, compared to a large flock of sheep running swiftly. That part of the land next the river was a small wood, under two acres, in which grew twenty large oaks; a few of them were thrown down, and as many more were undermined and overturned; some left leaning, the rest upright, as if never disturbed. The wood was pushed with such velocity into the channel of the Severn (which at that time was remarkably deep) that it forced the water in great columns a considerable height, like mighty fountains, and drove the bed of the river before it on the opposite shore many feet

riosity not the least inferior to any one contained therein.—Having thus particularly described the outside situation of this famous tree, I shall without doubt more surprize the reader in giving the inside description; and, as near reality as possible, is as follows:—On the north-east side, next that of Temple Sowerby, is a large entrance cut and broke out, in form of a door-way, where people either walk in on foot, or ride in on horse-back, which, though however impossible this may appear in respect to a tree, the truth of it is well known to those persons who have had the curiosity to behold it, several of which are now in London, and other parts of England, &c. As to the inward prospect, it is rather dismal than otherwise, representing, as it were, part of some ruinous castle or ancient tower, being so much inwardly decayed as even reduced almost to a shell; near the top, in the cavities within, are several of those animals called bats, and the martins resort also thither in great numbers; the lower part is most wonderfully spacious, and will easily admit, as before observed, of a horse and man thereon to turn about at pleasure; it is also a very convenient receptacle for the deer in stormy weather, which in this forest are many in number, and esteemed not inferior to any in England.—Thus have I given both the true and original description of this most wonderful Three Brethren Tree, which has so many years been the admiration of the Northern inhabitants, even for several former generations. Adjoining to the west side of this forest is Clifton-Moor, on which place his royal highness the Duke of Cumberland most gloriously defeated the rebel army, in the year 1746, restored an universal peace throughout the country; and seated the Brunswick family in security on the throne, which we trust they will hold to the end of time.

## THE ANTIENT CRIES OF LONDON;

*Or the common daily cries in and about the Metropolis.*

IN the reign of Charles the Second, almost every article of life and use, were carried about the streets of London, by itinerent venders, who accompanied each article they sold with a peculiar cry: this set of people attracted the attention of Marcellus Laroon, an eminent painter of that time, who made nearly one hundred fine drawings, which were engraved and published by Pierce Tempest, and the following descriptive poem, was doubtless made by a wit of the time to accompany them; though inserted in another work, which is now equally scarce with the cries themselves, a set of which has lately been sold for seven guineas:—

WE daily cryes, about the streets may hear  
 According to the season of the year,  
 Some Welfleet oysters call, others do cry  
 Fine Shelsea cockles, or white muscles buy;  
 Great Mackrel, five a groat some cry about,  
 Dainty fresh salmon, does another shout;  
 Buy my fine dish of dainty eels cryes one  
 Some soles and flounders in another tone;  
 Butter and eggs some cry, some Hampshire honey,  
 Others do call for brass, or broken money.  
 Have ye any old suits, or coats or hats,  
 Another says come buy my dainty sprats,  
 Box, or horn combes of ivory, or sissers,  
 Tobacco-boxes, knives, razors, or twissers:  
 Who buys my bak'd ox-cheek, here in my pot  
 Plump, fresh and fat, well stew'd and piping hot;  
 Dy'd lin for aprons, vinegar some cryes,  
 Some hot bak'd wardens, others puddin pyes:

Ripe rass-berries about, does some then sing,  
Fine young straw-berries does another bring ;  
Fresh nattle tops, or elder-buds, come buy,  
Then water cresses and brook-lime, they cry.  
Any old iron here to sell, cryes one,  
And some maid ha' ye any marrow bone ;  
Ripe Muske mellons, or apricots, some cry,  
Fine civil oranges or lemmons buy,  
Old chairs to mend, then cryes a ragged fellow,  
Come buy a door matt does another bellow ;  
Buy a cock or a gelding does one come,  
Come buy my dainty singing bird says some  
Some dainty fine holly and ivy sayes,  
Then curious fine rosemary and bayes,  
Some pens and ink would sell to all they meet,  
And other small coal cry about the street ;  
Pity the poor prisoners, some with baskets go,  
And others cry come see my rara show :  
Anon, a poor wretch comes crying behind,  
With dog and bell pray pity the poor blind ;  
Who buys theses figgs and raisins, new of mine,  
Come buy my may bowl of wheat, fine oatkakes, fine :  
Hot mutton pyes, cryes one along the street,  
Who buys my mutton pyes, fresh, hot, and sweet ;  
Buy marking stone one cryes, with's smutty face,  
Another says come buy my fine bone lace ;  
Buy a cloth or thrum mop, you maids and lasses,  
Another cryes who buyes my drinking glasses.  
A lattice for a window, who will buy,  
Great faggots, five for sixpence does some cry ;  
Have ye any old glass for to renew,  
Some cry bellows to mend, or bowels to sew ;  
Some silk or ferrit ribbon for shoe strings,  
With London pins, and tape, and other things,

Have ye any corns upon your feet or toes,  
 Buy a fox-tail, or whiske, another goes ;  
 Some walk about and old silk stockings cry,  
 Some ask if socks, or quilted caps you'l buy ;  
 And thus they trot about and bawl each day,  
 For th' love they bear Lady Pecunia,  
 For her they'l sit up late, and early rise,  
 She does appear so glorious in their eyes :  
 Think all pains well bestow'd, nothing too much,  
 Their zealous dotage to this idol's such,  
 Money's the only she, all men admire,  
 Both poor and rich this lady do desire ;  
 And those that her do want, they are forlorn,  
 If she's not there, they're every fellow's scorn ;  
 We may conclude, when we've said what we can,  
 'Tis money at all times, does make a man.

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THOMAS ANELLO,

Commonly called MASANIELLO, the Fisherman of Naples.

OF the revolutions in countries and empires, few have claimed more interest or excited so much attention, as those in Naples and England, which took place, the first in 1647, at Naples, by a poor fisherman, and in England, by a set of fanatics, the head of whom was Oliver Cromwell, in the year 1648. When this grand dissembler, by a mock trial, brought his Sovereign's head to the block, very different causes served in either country to foment rebellion : in Naples, it was brought about through the great burthens and oppressions of the people ; in our own country by a dispute as to the mode of worship in our churches, which the Puritans imagined, favoured too much of Popery, particularly as the altar was removed a little before this time, from the middle of the church to the east end, and in some cases, more richly ornamented

ed than agreeable to this description of people. Archbishop Laud, on the contrary, as strongly opposed their desires, and caused some to be severely censured in the star chamber, whereby Prynne, Burton, Bastwick and Leighton lost their ears in the pillory, and were fined in an amount equal to imprisonment for life : this severity drew on Laud a number of enemies, which ended in the loss of his head, and was in a few years after followed by that of his royal master.

But if these transactions filled the mind with horror, how much more so does the depredations and murders daily and hourly committed in France, excite our surprise and indignation : for not content with the bloodshed of their own country, the revolutionary principles extend to that of others ; thus Germany, Holland, Switzerland, Italy and Egypt sufficiently testify : and when drove with dismay and disgrace from the latter country by the valour of the British forces, like the description of vermin, who for want of other food prey on themselves, have invented sham plots and diabolical measures, to gratify the sanguinary appetite of a carnivorous usurper and tyrant, whose despotism we cannot but think will be of but short duration. For intoxicated by power, like the unfortunate Masaniello, (a much less censurable character) he will not be content till his extravagant fancy draws a similar fate on his devoted head.

THOMAS ANELLO, by construction called Masaniello, was born in the year 1623, and at the time he attracted the notice and conversation of the world, was about twenty-four years of age : this man dwelt in a corner of the great market-place at Naples ; and it strangely happened, that under one of his windows were fixed the arms, and the name of Charles V. of a very ancient standing. This monarch had granted a charter of privileges to the people
of

of Naples, which had of late been much violated. Masaniello was stout, of a good countenance, and a middle stature; he wore linen slops, a blue waistcoat, and went barefoot, with a mariner's cap. His profession was to angle for small fish, with a cane, hook and line; as also to buy fish and to retail them. This man having observed the murmurings up and down the city, went one day very angry towards his house, and met with the famous Bandido Perrone and his companion, as he passed by a church where they had fled for refuge. They asked him what ailed him? he answered in great wrath, "I will be bound to be hanged, but I will right this city!"—They laughed at his words, saying, "a proper squire to right the city of Naples!" Masaniello replied, "Do not laugh: I swear by G—d, if I had two or three of my humour, you should see what I would do---will you join with me?" they answered, "yes:" "plight me then your faith;" which they having done, he departed. A little after, he fell into a great passion; for some of the officers of the customs having met his wife carrying a small quantity of contraband flour in her apron, they laid hold on her, and carried her to prison, nor would set her at liberty, till Masaniello had sold the whole of his fish and property to pay a fine of an hundred ducats which was the price they had set on her freedom. He then resolved to make use of the occasion of the murmurings of the people against the tax on fruits, which particularly lay heavy on the poorer sort, and went among the fruit-shops that lay in that quarter, advising them, that the next day they should come all united to market, with a resolution to tell the country fruiterers that they would buy no more taxed fruit.

A number of boys used to assemble in the market place to pick up such fruit as fell. Masaniello got among these, taught them some cries and clamours suit-

ed to his purpose, and enrolled such a number of them between 16 and 17 years of age, that they came to 500, and at last 5000. Of this Militia he made himself General, giving every one of them in their hands a little weak cane. The shop-keepers observing his instructions, there happened the next day a great tumult between them and the fruiterers, which the regent of the city sent Anaclerio, the elect of the people, to quell. Among the fruiterers was a cousin of Masaniello's; who, according to the instructions given him, began more than any to inflame the people. He saw that he could sell his fruit, but at a low price; which, when the tax was paid, would not quit cost. He fell into a great rage, threw two large baskets on the ground, and cried out, God gives plenty, and the bad government a dearth; I care not a straw for this fruit, let every one take of it. The boys eagerly ran to gather and eat the fruit. Masaniello rushed in among them, crying, No tax! No tax! But Anaclerio threatening him with whipping and the gallies: not only the fruiterers, but all the people, threw figs, apples, and other fruits with great fury in his face. Masaniello hit him on the breast with a stone, and encouraged his Militia of boys to do the same; but Anaclerio saved his life by flight.

Upon this success, the people flocked in great numbers to the Market-place, exclaiming aloud against the intolerable grievances under which they groaned; and protesting their resolution to submit no longer to them. The fury still increasing, Masaniello leaped upon the highest table that was among the fruiterers, and harrangued the crowd; comparing himself to Moses, who delivered the Egyptians from the rod of Pharoah; to Peter, who was a fisherman as well as himself, yet rescued Rome and the world from the slavery of Satan; promising them a like deliverance from their oppressors by his means, and pro-

testing

testing his readiness to lay down his life in such a glorious cause. Masaniello repeating often these and such-like words, wonderfully inflamed the minds of the people, who were disposed in their hearts to co-operate with him to this purpose.

To begin the work, fire was put to the house next the toll-house for fruit, both of which were burnt to the ground, with all the books and accounts, goods and furniture. This done, every one shut up his shop; and the numbers increasing, many thousand people, uniting themselves, went to other parts of the city, where all the other toll-houses were: then they plundered of all their writings and books, great quantities of money, with many rich moveables; all of which they threw into a great fire of straw, and burnt to ashes in the streets. The people, meeting with no resistance, assumed more boldness, and made towards the palace of the Viceroy. The first Militia of Masaniello, consisting of 2000 boys, marched on, every one lifting up his cane with a piece of black cloth on the top, and with doleful and loud cries excited the compassion, and intreated the assistance of their fellow-citizens. Being come before the palace, they cried out again, that they would not be freed of the fruit-tax only, but of all others, especially that of corn. At last they entered the palace, and rifled it, notwithstanding the resistance of the guards, whom they disarmed.

The Viceroy got into his coach to secure himself within the church of St. Lewis; but the people spying him, stopped the coach, and with naked swords on each side of it, threatened him, unless he would take off the taxes. With fair promises and assurances of redress, and by throwing money among the multitude, which they were greedy to pick up, he got at last safe into the church, and ordered the doors to be shut. The people applied to the Prince of Bisignano, who was much beloved by them,

them, to be their defender and intercessor. He promised to obtain what they desired; but finding himself unable, after much labour and fatigue, to restrain their licentiousness or quell their fury, he took the first opportunity of disengaging himself from the labyrinth of that popular tumult.

After the retirement of the prince, the people finding themselves without a head, called out for Masaniello to be their leader and conductor; which charge he accepted. They appointed Genoino, a priest of approved knowledge, temper, and abilities, to attend his person; and to him they added, for a companion, the aforementioned famous Banditto Perrone. Masaniello, by his spirit, good sense, and bravery, won the hearts of all the people, insomuch that they became willing to transfer unto him solemnly the supreme command, and to obey him accordingly.

A stage was erected in the middle of the market-place, where, cloathed in white, like a mariner, he with his ~~councillors~~ gave public audience, received petitions, and gave sentence in ~~all cases~~ both civil and criminal. He had no less than 150,000 men under his command. An incredible multitude of women also appeared with arms of various sorts, like so many Amazons. A list was made of above 60 persons, who had farmed the taxes, or been some way concerned in the custom-houses; and, as it was said, they had enriched themselves with the blood of the people, and ought to be made examples to future ages, an order was issued that their houses and goods should be burnt; which was executed accordingly, and with so much regularity, that no one was suffered to carry away the smallest article. Many for stealing but mere trifles from the flames were hanged by the public executioner in the market-place, by the command of Masaniello.

Whilst these horrid tragedies were acting, the Viceroy thought of every method to appease the people, and bring them to an accommodation. He applied to the Archbishop, of whose attachment to the government he was well assured, and of whose paternal care and affection for them, the people had no doubt. He gave them the original charter of Charles V. (which exempted them from all taxes, and upon which they had all along insisted) confirmed by lawful authority, and also an indulgence or pardon for all offences whatsoever committed.

The bishop found means to induce Masaniello to convoke all the captains and chief commanders of the people together; and great hopes were conceived that an happy accommodation would ensue. In the mean time, 500 banditti, all armed, on horseback, entered the city, under pretence that they came for the service of the people, but in reality to destroy Masaniello, as it appeared afterwards; for they discharged several shot at him, some of which narrowly missed him. This immediately put a stop to the whole business, and it was suspected that the Viceroy had some hand in this conspiracy. The streets were immediately barricaded, and orders were given, that the aqueduct leading to the castle, in which were the Viceroy and family, and all the principal officers of state, should be cut off, and that no provision, except some few roots and herbs should be carried thither. The Viceroy applied again to the archbishop, to assure the people of his good intentions towards them, his abhorrence of the designs of the banditti, and his resolution to use all his authority to bring them to due punishment. Thus the treaty was again renewed, and soon completed; which being done, it was thought proper that Masaniello should go to the palace to visit the Viceroy. He gave orders that all the streets leading to

it should be swept clean, and that all masters of families should hang their windows and balconies with their richest silks and tapestries. He threw off his mariner's habit, and dressed himself in cloth of silver, with a fine plume of feathers in his hat; and, mounted upon a prancing steed, with a drawn sword in his hand; he went attended by 50,000 of the choicest of the people.

While he was in conference with the Viceroy in the balcony, he gave him surprising proofs of the ready obedience of the people; whatever cry he gave out, it was immediately echoed; when he put his finger upon his mouth there was a profound universal silence, that scarce a man was seen to breathe. At last, he ordered that they should all retire, which was punctually and presently obeyed, as if they had all vanished away. On the Sunday following the capitulations were signed and solemnly sworn to in the cathedral church, to be observed for ever. Masaniello declared, that now having accomplished his honest designs, he would return again to his former occupation. If he had kept this resolution, he might justly have been reckoned one of the greatest heroes that any age or country ever produced. But as it is diversely reported, either through the instigations of his wife and kindred, through fear, or allured by the tasted sweets of rule and power, he still continued his authority; and, what is worse, exercised it in a very capricious and tyrannical manner, insomuch that his best friends began to be afraid of him.

It has been thought something had been infused into his drink, to deprive him of his senses, or, what is equally probable, that he had drank to an excess, wholly to deprive him of reason; but, whatever was the cause, he certainly conducted himself at least, in a very improper manner; wantonly cutting and maiming every person without distinction, galloping along the streets like a

maniac: instead of being followed by the people, as heretofore, every person avoided his presence; and at last, fatigued and exhausted; he took refuge in the church of Carmine. The archbishop sent immediate notice to the viceroy, and Masaniello was in the mean time taken care of by the religious of the church, and provided with refreshments, after the fatigue he had suffered by his violent proceedings. Some gentlemen who thought they should be doing the viceroy an acceptable office now entered the church; and as they passed through the cloyster cried out, *long live the King of Spain, and let none from henceforth, upon pain of death obey Masaniello*. The people did not oppose these gentlemen in their search, but on the contrary made way for them; and they proceeded to the convent of the church, searching and enquiring for Masaniello. This unhappy man, hearing somebody call Masaniello, runs out to meet his foes, saying, *Is it me you look for, my people? Behold I am here*; but all the answer he had was from four muskets, that were fired upon him at one time, by Salvatone Cataneo, Carlos Cataneo, Angelo Ardezone, and Andrea Rama. He instantly dropped down upon the place, having but just time to cry out, *Ah! ungrateful traitors*, he breathed his last. Salvatone Cataneo then cut off his head, and carried it directly to the viceroy, to the terror of the rabble; who to the amount of eight or ten thousand, were in the church and market place; and far from avenging the death of their captain-general, by that of his murderers, they seemed satisfied and motionless; and in this occurrence gave a memorable instance of the inconsistency of the populace, whose attachment may be justly compared to a broken reed, which, whoever bears upon is sore of falling. As no sooner was the breath out of his body, but his hitherto followers first procured the body, and after his head, and dragged them through.

every kennel and gutter of the city, and finally threw each into a separate ditch. But the day following, as great a change again took place with respect to his memory, his head and body were carefully sought after, and when found, were washed free from the filth that had defaced it; and the most sumptuous funeral ever seen in Naples was that of Masaniello, being followed to the Cathedral church by five hundred priests, and forty thousand other persons. The ensigns of the Spanish monarchy lowered their banners as it passed; and the viceroy sent out a number of attendants with torches, when it passed his palace, to attend the procession, and honor him in death. The disturbance in Naples began July 7th, 1647, and ended the 16th of the same month, the day Masaniello was killed, after ruling nine days.

It may not be improper to remark, that about one hundred years before, in the year 1547, a Masaniello put himself at the head of a mob, on the introduction of the inquisition at Naples, by Phillip II. This Masaniello was Captain of a banditti.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM,

SIR,

If the following *singular custom* is thought worthy a place in your entertaining publication, it will be the means of my endeavouring to furnish you with similar articles.

Yours, &c.

S. D.

THE manner of making a new freeman, of Alnwick, in the county of Northumberland, is so remarkable and ludicrous, that an able historian has preserved the story from whence the custom is derived. This curious mode of making a new freeman is practised it its full force to the present time, and within a very few years has been complied with. The history and form of it is as follows :

In

In the reign of King John, that monarch attempted to ride across Alnwick Moor, then called the forest of Aidon; he fell with his horse into a bog or morass, where he stuck so fast that he was with great difficulty pulled out by some of his attendants.

The King, incensed against the inhabitants of that town, for not keeping their roads over their moor in better repair, or at least for not placing some post or mark pointing out the particular spots which were impassable, inserted in their charter, both by way of memento and punishment, that for the future all new created freemen should on St. Marks day pass on foot through that morass, called the Freemens well.

In obedience to this clause of their charter, when any new freemen are to be made, a small rill of water which passes through the morass is kept dammed up for a day or two, previous to that on which this ceremonial is to be exhibited, by which means the bog becomes so thoroughly liquified, that a middle sized man is chin deep in mud and water in passing over it, besides which, unlucky wags frequently dig holes and trenches; in these, filled up and rendered invisible by the fluid mud, several freemen have fallen down, and been in great danger of suffocation. In short, in proportion as the new made freemen are more or less popular, the passage is rendered more or less difficult; at the best, however, it is scarcely preferable to the punishment of the horse-pond inflicted by the mob on a detected pick-pocket.

The day being come, the candidates, for they are literally so, being dressed all in white, preceded by a cavalcade, consisting of the Castle Bailiff, the four Chamberlains, the freemen of the town, and a band of music, repair to the scene of action. And on the word, or a signal being given, they pass through the bog, each being at liberty to use the method and pace, which to him shall seem

seem best, some running, some going slow, and some attempting to jump over suspected places, but all in their turns, tumbling and wallowing like porpoises at sea, or hogs in the mire, to the great amusement of the populace, who usually assemble in vast numbers on this occasion. This scene being over, the parties return to the town, and endeavour to prevent by good cheer the ill effects of their mornings exercise.



REMARKABLE TRIAL.

In the Court of King's-Bench, brought by a Mrs. BOOTY, against Captain BARNABY, to recover the sum of one thousand pounds, as damages for the scandal of his assertion, that he had seen her deceased husband, Mr. Booty, a receiver, drove into Hell.

ON this remarkable trial, witnesses were brought forward, who proved the words to have been spoken by Captain Barnaby, and afterwards by his wife; the defence set up was, that the defendant had spoke no more, than had been seen by a number of persons, as well as himself, to prove which the journal books of three different ships were produced in court, and the following passages recorded in each, submitted to the court and jury by the defendant's council.

TUESDAY 12th May, 1687.—This day the weather came S. W. a little, about three o'clock in the afternoon, and about four, we anchored in Manson-road, and there in the road Captain Barnaby, Captain Bristow, and Captain Brown, all of them bound for the island of Lis-sara, to load.

WEDNESDAY, 13th May.—This day, about ten o'clock in the forenoon, I went on board of Captain Barnaby, and about two o'clock in the afternoon, we weighed, and
sailed

sailed, all of us, for the island of Lissara, the wind was W. N. W. and better weather.

THURSDAY, 14th of May.—About two o'clock we saw the island of Lissara; and about seven we came to an anchor off the said island, in twelve fathoms water, and then we were at W. S. W.

FRIDAY, 15th May.—We had the observation of Mr. Booty this day, Captain Barnaby, Captain Bristow, Captain Brown, I, and Mr. Ball, merchant, went on shore in Captain Barnaby's boat, to shoot rabbits upon Stromboli; and when we had done, we called all our men together by us, and about half an hour, and fourteen minutes after *three* in the afternoon, to our great surprise, *we all of us* saw two men come running towards us with such swiftness, that no living man could run half so fast as they did run; when all of us heard Captain Barnaby say, "Lord bless me, the foremost is old Booty, my next door neighbour;" but he said, he did not know the other that run behind; he was in black clothes and the foremost was in grey: then Captain Barnaby desired all of us, to take an account of the time, and pen it down in our pocket books, and when we got on board we wrote it in our journals; for we saw them into the flames of fire, and there was a great noise, which greatly affrighted us all; for we none of us ever saw, or heard the like before. Captain Barnaby said, "he was certain it was old Booty, which he saw running over Stromboli, and into the flames of hell."

Then coming home to England, and lying at Gravesend, Captain Barnaby's wife came on board the 6th day of October, 1687; at which time Captain Barnaby, and Captain Brown, sent for Captain Bristow, and Mr. Ball, merchant, to congratulate with them; and after some discourse, Captain Barnaby's wife started up, and said,
 "my

"my dear, I will tell you some news, old Booty is dead;" he directly made answer, "we all of us saw him run into hell!" Afterwards Captain Barnaby's wife told a Gentleman of his acquaintance in London, what her husband had said; and he went and acquainted Mrs. Booty of the whole affair: upon that Mrs. Booty arrested Captain Baraby in a thousand pounds action; for what he had said of her husband; Capt. Barnaby gave bail to it, and it came to a trial in the Court of King's Bench, and they had Mr. Booty's wearing apparel brought into Court, and the Sexton of the Parish, and the people that were with him when he died; and they swore to the time he died, and when he died; and we swore to our journals, and it came to the same time within about two minutes: ten of our men swore to the buttons on his coat, and that they were covered with the same sort of cloth his coat was made; and so it proved.

The jury asked Mr. Spinks (whose hand writing in the journal that happened to be read appeared) if he knew Mr. Booty, he answered "I never saw him, till he ran by me on the Burning Mountains."

Then the judge said, "Lord have mercy upon me, and grant I may never see what you have seen; one, two or three may be mistaken, but thirty never can be mistaken."—So the widow lost her cause.

SOME ACCOUNT OF STROMBOLI.

One of the Lipari Islands, with an astonishing transaction which happened there.

STROMBOLI, the most northern of the Lipari Islands, is a volcano, which rises in a conical form, above the surface of the sea. On the east side, it has three or four little craters ranged near each other, not at the summit,

much to be feared. Of all the Volcanos recorded in history, Stromboli seems to be the only one that *burns without ceasing*. Etna and Vesuvius often lie quiet for many months, and even years, without the least appearance of fire; but Stromboli is ever at work, and, for ages past, has been looked upon as the great lighthouse of the Mediterranean sea.



EXTRACT FROM THE NORTHUMBERLAND HOUSEHOLD
BOOK.

The following curious Items, were preserved in a Manuscript Household Book, kept by the Steward of the Northumberland Family, in the reign of Henry the Fourth: Dr. Percy, Chaplain to the late Duke of Northumberland, superintended the printing of this singular book, of which a few copies only were distributed among the friends of the family about twenty years ago; from one of which we have extracted the accounts, of feasts and offerings of that period.

FIRSTE it is thoughte that CRANYS muste be hadde at Cristynmas ande outhur principalle feists for my lord's owne meas so they be bought at xvjd pece.

At principal Feists.—Item, It is thoughte in-like-wies that HEARONSEWIS be boughte for my lordes owne meas so they be at xijd. the pece.

At principal Feists.—Item, REDESCHANKS to be boughte at principalle feists for my lords own meas after jd. ob. the pece.

At principal Feists.—Item, BITTERS for my lorde, owne meas at principal feists, ande to be at xijd. a pece so they be goode.

At principal Feists.—Item, FESSAUNTIS for my lordes owne meas, to be had at principalle feists, and to be at xijd. a pece.

At principal Feists.—Item, REIS to be hadde for my lordes owne meas at principal feists, ande at ijd. a pece.

At principal Feists.—Item, REIS to be hadde for my lordes owne meas at principal feists, ande at ijd. a pece.

At principal Feists. — Item, **SMOLARDIS** to be hadde for my lords owne meas at principal feists, and to be at vjd. a pece.

At principal Feists. — Item, **KIRLEWIS** to be hadde for my lords owne meas at principal feistes, ande to be at xijd. a pece.

At principal Feists. — Item, **PACOKKS** to be hadde for my lordes owne meas at principal feistes, and at xijd. a pece; and no **PAYHENNES** to be bowght.

At principal Feists. — Item, **SEKPIES** for my lorde at principal feists, ande noone onther tyme.

At principal Feists. — Item, **WEGIONNES** for my lorde at principal feistes, ande noone outhr tyme, ande jd. ob. the pece, excepte my lordes comandement be outhr wis.

At principal Feists. — Item, **KNOTTIS** for my lorde at principalle feists, and noone outhr tyme, ande at jd. a pece, except my lords comaundement be otherwis.

At principal Feists. — Item, **DOTTRELLIS** to be bought for my lorde when they ar in seasonne, ande to be at a penny a pece.

At principal Feists. — Item, **BUSTARDES** for my lordes owne meas at principall feists, ande noon outhr tyme except my lords comaundement be otherwis.

At principal Feists. — Item, **TEARNES** for my lordes owne meas oonellie at principalle feists, and noon outhr tyme aftir iiij a penny, excepte my lordes comaundement be outhr wis.



Extracts from the Northumberland Household-book continued, p. 331.

ALMANER of Rewardes Customable used Yerly by my Lorde to be Yeven ande Paide by his Lordschipe from Michaelmas to Michaelmas yerely as it doith appeire in the Booke of his Lordshipe Foren Expences of every Yere what Customable Payments they be that my Lorde

usith yerly ande for what causes they be Yeven ande wherefore every Some is paide ande for what consideracion as well for Waiges and Fees paide owt yerely of his Lordeschippe Coffures ' as ' Rewardis Customable used yerly by my Lorde at New Yers Day ande other tymes of the Yere His Lordschipe ande my Ladies Offerings at principall Feists yerly accustomed Ande Rewards usede Customable to be Yeven yerely to Strangers as Players Mynstralls ande others as the Some of every Rewarde particularly With the Consideracion why ande wherefore it is Yeven With the names of the Parsones to whom the saide Rewards be Yeven more playnly hereafter followith ande apperith in this Booke Which be Ordynary and Accustomable Payments by my Lorde usede Yerly if the tymes so requier.

All Maner of Offerings for my Lorde ande my Lady ande my Lordis Childeren Customable used yerly at Principall Feasts ande other Offeringe-Dayes in the Yere as the Consideracion Whye more playnly hereafter followith.

FURST. My Lordis Offerringe accustomed upon Alhallow day yerely When his Lordshippe is at home at the Highe Mas if he kepe Chapell——xijd.

Item. My Ladis Offerringe accustomed upon Alhallowe-day yerely If sche offer at the Highe Masse if my Lorde kepe Chapell to be paid owt of my Lords Coffures if sche be at my Lordis Fyndinge ande not at hir owen——viijd.

Item. My Lordes Offeringe accustomed upon Cristynmas-day yerely When his Lordshippe is at home at the Highe Mas if he kepe Chapell——xijd.

Item. My Ladies Offeringe upon Cristynmas-day yerly at the Highe Mas if my Lorde kepe Chapell to be paid

paide owt of my Lordis Coffures if sche be at my Lordis fyndynge ande not at her even—viij*d.*

Item. My Lordis Offeringe upon Saynt Stephyns daye When his Lordschipp his at home & groit to bow at a Lawe Mas in his closett—iiij*d.*

Item. My Lordis Offeringe accustomede upon New-Yers-day yerely When his Lordeschip is at home at the High Mas if he kepe Chapell—xij*d.*

- Item. My Ladies Offeringe accustomede upon New-Yers-day yerely at the High Mas if my Lorde kepe Chapell to be paid owt of my Lordis Coffures if sche be at my Lords fyndinge and not at hir owen—viij*d.*

Item. My Lords Offeringe accustomede upon the xijth Day yerely When his Lordschipe is at home At the High Mas if he kepe Chapell—xij*d.*

Item. My Ladies Offeringe accustomed uppon the xijth Day yerely at the High Mass if my Lorde kepe Chapell to be paide owt of my Lords Coffures if sche be at my Lordis fyndinge and not at hir owen—viij*d.*

Item. My Lordis Offerynge accustomede upon Candilmas-Day yerely to be sett in his Lordschippis Candill to offer at the High Mas when his Lordschipp is at home & groits for the & joyes of our Lady—xx*d.*

Item. My Laidis Offerynge uppon Candilmae-daie yerely to be sett in hir Candill to offer at the High Mas iij groitts to be paid owt of my Lordis Coffures if sche be at my Lordis fyndynge and not at hir owen—xij*d.*

Item. My Lorde useth and accomyth yerely upon Candilmas-Day to caus to be Delyveride for the Offeringe of my Lords Son and Heire the Lorde Percy to be sett in his Candill i*d.* Ande for every of my Yonge Masters my Lords Yonge Sonnes to be sett in the Candills affore the Offeringe j*d.* for aither of them—iiij*d.*

Item. My Lordis Offeringe accustomed yerly upon Saint Blayes Day to be sett in his Lordschippe Candill to offer

Blayes Day to be sett in his Lordschippe Candill to offer at Hye Mas if his Lordschyp kepe Chapell——
iiij*d.*

Item. My Laidis Offeringe accustomed yerely upon Saint Blayes Day to be sett in hir Candill to offer at the Hye Mass to be paid owt of my Lordis Coffures if sche be at my Lordis syndynge and not at hir owen——iiij*d.*

Item. My Lorde useth and accustomyth yerly upon Saynt Blays Days to cause to be delyveride for the Offerynge of my Lordis Sone and Heire the Lorde Percy to sett in his Candill *jd.* Ande for every of my Yonge Masters my Lords Yonger Sonnes to sett in their Candills after *jd.* for every of them for ther Offerings this said day ——iiij*d.*

Item. My Lordis Offeringe accustomed uppon Goode-Friday yerely if his Lordschipp be at Home and kepe Chapell when his Lordschipe crepith the Cros——
iiij*d.*

Item. My Ladis Offerringe accustomed yerely upon Good Friday when she crepith the Crosse to be paid owt of my Lordis Coffures if sche is at my Lordis syndynge and not at hir own——iiij*d.*

Item. My Lorde useth and accustomoth yerely when his Lordschip is at home to caus to be delyveride for the Offerrings of my Lordis Sone and Heire the Lord Percy upon the said Good Friday when he crepith the Crosse *ijd.* Ande for every of my Yonge Maisters my Lordis Yonger Sonnes after *jd.* to every of them for ther Offerings when they Crepe the Cros the said Good-Friday ——iiij*d.*

Item. My Lordis Offeringe accustomed yerely uppon Ester-Evyn when his Lordshipp takyth his Rights——
iiij*d.*

Item. My Ladis Offeringe accustomed yerely upon Ester-Evyn

- Evyn when hir Ladishipe taketh hir rights if sche be at my Lords fyndyng and not at hir owen—iiij*d*.
- Item. My Lorde usith and accustomyth yerly to caus to be delyverid to his Lordschippis Children that be of Aige to take there Rights for them to offer upon Esters Even after ij*d*. to every of them—
- Item. My Lorde usith and accustometh yerely to caus to be delyvrede to every of his Lordschippis Wardis or Hansman or anny other Yonge Gentilmen that be at his Lordschipes fyndyng Ande be of Aige to take ther Rights after ij*d*. a pece to every such Parson—
- Item. My Lords Offerynge accustomede yerely upon Ester-Day in the mornynge when his Lordshipe Crepith the Cros after the Resurreccion if his Lordschippe be at home and kepe Chapell—iiij*d*.
- Item. My Ladis Offering accustomede yerly upon Ester-Daye in the mornynge when hir Ladyschip Crepith the Cros after the Resurreccion to be paide owt of my Lordis Coffures if she be at my Lordis findyng and not at hir owen—iiij*d*.
- Item. My Lord useth and accustomethe upon Ester-Day in the mornynge to caus to be delyverid to my Lords Eldest Son the Lord Percy and to every of my Yonge Masters my Lords yonger Sones after j*d*. to every of them to offer when they Creep the Cross the said day after the Resurreccion—iiij*d*.
- Item. My Lords Offeringe accustomede upon Ester-Day yerely when his Lordschip is at home at the High Mas if my Lorde kepe Chapell—xiij*d*.
- Item. My Ladis Oferenge accustomide upon Estir-Day yerely at the High Mas if my Lorde kepe Chapell to be paid owt of my Lords Coffures if she be at my Lords fyndyng and not at hir owen—viiij*d*.
- Item. My Lorde usith and accustomyth upon Ester-Day yerely when his Lordschip is at home if my Lorde kepe

- kepe Chapell to caus to be delyvered to my Lords Eldest Sone the Lord Percy ande to every of my Yonge Masters my Lords Yonger Sonnes After *jd.* every of them for them to offer the said Ester-Day in the Chapell at the Hye Mass—*iiijd.*
- Item. My Lordis Offiryng accustomede upon Saynt George-Day yerly at the Hye Mas when his Lordschyppe is at home and kepith Saynt George Feast—*xd.*
- Item. My Lordis Offeringe accustomyde at the Mes of Requiem uppon the morowe after Saynt George-Day when his Lordschip is at home and kepith Saynt George Feast which is accustomede yerely to be don for the Saullis of all the Knightes of th' Order of the Garter Departede to the Mercy of God—*iiijd.*
- Item. My Lorde useth and accustomyth when he is at home ande kipith Dergen over Night and Mes of requiem uppon the morowe my Lord his Father *xij.* Month Mynde to offer at the Mas of Requiem—*iiijd.*
- Item. My Lorde usith and accustomyth yerely when his Lordschip is at home to caus to be delyvered to my Lordis Eldest Sone and Heyre the Lorde Percy ande to every of my Yonge Masters my Lords Yonger Sons after *jd.* to every of them for them to offer the said daye at the said Mes of Requiem Done for my Lorde Father *xij.* Month Mynde—*iiijd.*
- Item. My Lordis Offeryng accustomede uppon the Assencion-Day yerly when his Lordeschip is at home at the High Mas if he kepe Chapell—*xijd.*
- Item. My Ladies Offeringe accustomede upon the Assencion-Day yerly at the Hy Mas in the Chapell to be paid owt of my Lordis Coffures if she be at my Lordis fyndyng and not at hir owne—*viiijd.*
- Item. My Lords Offeringe accustomede upon Whitsunday yerely at the Hye Mas in the Chapell when his Lordschip is at home—*xijd.*

Item.

A SINGULAR MURDER.

A Singular and Interesting relation of a Murder.

IN the year 1613, a Mrs. Clarke, keeper of the Blue-Bell Inn, opposite the Free School, in Leicester, was robbed and murdered by her servant-maid and seven men. The relation being singular and interesting, I shall give it as told by Sir Roger Twisden, who had it from persons of undoubted credit, who were not only inhabitants of Leicester, but saw the murderers executed. " When King Richard III. marched into Leicester, against Henry, Earl of Richmond, afterwards Henry VII. he lay at the Blue Bear Inn, in the town of Leicester, where was left a large wooden bedstead, gilded in some places; which after his defeat and death in the battle of Bosworth, was left, either through haste, or as a thing of little value, (the bedding being all taken from it) to the people of the house; thence-forward this old bedstead, which was boarded at the bottom, (as the manner was in those days) became a piece of standing furniture, and passed from tenant to tenant with the inn.

In the reign of Queen Elizabeth this house was kept by one Mr. Clarke, who put a bed on this bedstead, which his wife going to make hastily, and jumbling the bedstead a piece of gold dropped out. This excited the woman's curiosity; she narrowly examined this antique piece of furniture, and finding it had a double bottom, took off the uppermost with a chisel, upon which she discovered the space between them filled with gold; part of it coined by Richard III. and the rest of it in earlier times.

Mr. Clarke (her husband) concealed this piece of good fortune, though by degrees, the effects of it made it known, for he became rich from a low condition, and in the space of a few years mayor of the town; and then

the story of the bedstead came to be rumoured by the servants. At his death he left his estate to his wife, who still continued to keep the inn, though she was known to be very rich; which put some wicked persons upon engaging the maid servant to assist in robbing her. These folks, to the number of seven, lodged in the house, plundered it, and carried off some horse loads of valuable things; and yet left a considerable quantity of valuables scattered about the floor. As for Mrs. Clarke herself, who was very fat, she endeavoured to cry out for help, upon which her maid thrust her fingers down her throat and choaked her, for which fact she was burnt; and the seven men, who were her accomplices, were hanged at Leicester some time in the year 1613.



Particular account of MR. HASTINGS, who lived at Woodlands in the year 1638; from an ancient manuscript communicated by,

May, 1804,

J. P.

IN the year 1638 lived Mr. Hastings, by his quality, son, brother, and uncle, to the Earls of Huntingdon. He was peradventure an original in our age, or rather the copy of our antient nobility, in hunting and in warlike times. He was low of stature, very strong and very active, of a reddish flaxen hair; his clothes always green cloth, and never worth, when new, five pounds. His house was perfectly of the old fashion, in the midst of a large park well stocked with deer; and near the house was a rabbit warren, to serve his kitchen; many fish ponds, great store of wood and timber; a bowling green in it, long but narrow, full of high ridges, it being never levelled since it was plowed; they used round sand bowls, and it had a banquetting house like a stand, also a large one built in a tree. He kept all manner of sport hounds that run, buck, fox,

fox, hare, otter, and badger; and hawks, long and short winged. He had all sorts of nets for fish; he had a walk in the new forest, in the parish of Christ Church. This last supplied him with red deer, sea and river fish, and indeed all his neighbours grounds and royalties were free to him who bestowed all his time in these sports; but what he borrowed to caress his neighbours, wives, sisters, or daughters; there being not a woman in all his walks of the degree of a yeomans wife or under, and under the age of forty, but it was extremely her fault if he was not acquainted with her. This made him very popular, always speaking kindly to the husband, brother, or father, who was to be very welcome to his house whenever he came; there he found beef, pudding, and small beer in great plenty. A house not so neatly kept as to shame him on his dusty slaves, the great hall strewed with marrow bones, full of hawks perches, hounds, spaniels, and tarriers; the upper part of the hall hung with the foxes skins, of this and the last years killing; here and there a pole-cat, intermixed game keepers, and hunter poles in great abundance. The parlour was a large long room, as properly furnished; on a great hearth paved with brick, lay some small favourite tarriers, and the choicest hounds and spaniels; seldom but two of the great chairs had litters of young cats in them, which were not to be disturbed, always three or four of these animals attended him at dinner, and a little white round stick of fourteen inches long lying by his trencher, that he might defend such meat as he had no mind to part with to them. The windows, which were very large, served for places to lay his arrows, sling bows, and cross bows, and other such like accoutrements. The corners of the room full of the best chosen hunting and hawking poles; an oyster table at the lower end, which was in constant use twice a day, all the year round, for he never failed to eat oysters be-

fore dinner and supper through all the seasons; the neighbouring town of Poole supplied him with them. The upper part of the room had two small tables and a desk, on the one side of which was a church bible, on the other the book of martyrs; on the tables were hawks heads, bells, and such like, two or three old green hats with their crowns thrust in, so as to hold ten or a dozen eggs, which were of a pleasant kind of poultry, of which he took much care and fed himself. Tables, dice boxes, and cards were not wanting; in the hole of the desk were store of tobacco pipes that had been used. On one side of this end of the room was the door of the closet, wherein stood the strong beer and the wine, which never came there but in single glasses, that being the rule of the house exactly observed, for he never exceeded in drink or permitted it; on the other side was the door into an old chapel not used for devotion. The pulpit, as the safest place, was never wanting of a cold chine of beef and venison pasty, gammon of bacon or great apple pye with thick crust extremely baked; this table cost him not much, though it was good to eat at, the sports supplied almost all but beef and mutton, except Fridays, when he had the best salt fish, as well as other fish he could get, and was the day his neighbours of best quality most visited him. He never wanted a London pudding, and always sung it in, with the best eyes therein; when he drank a glass or two of wine, at meals very often syrup of gilly-flowers in his sack, and had always a tall glass without feet standing by him, holding a pint of small beer, which he often stirred with rosemary. He was well natured, but soon angry, calling his servants bastards, cuckolds, and knaves; in one of which he often spoke truth to his own knowledge, and sometimes in both, though of the same man. He lived to be an hundred, never lost his

his eye-sight, but always wrote and read without spectacles, and got on horse back without help till past four-score; he rid to the death of the stag as well as any.

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### A REMARKABLE IMPOSTURE.

IN the year 1762, a *boy of Bilson*, who was only 13 years of age, by instruction so conducted himself before the public that the spectators were induced by his extraordinary fits, agitations, and the surprising distempers wherewith he seemed to be affected, to believe him to be *possessed of a devil and bewitched*. In his fits he seemed to be both *deaf*, and *blind*, writhing his mouth, continually groaning and panting. And although often pinched with men's fingers, pricked with needles, tickled on the sides, whipped severely with rods, and treated with other corrections, he was never known to discover the least sense of what was done unto him. When he was thought to be out of his fits, he digested nothing given him for nourishment, but would often surprize the company by casting rags, thread, straws, crooked pins, needles, &c. out of his mouth; by such means his belly grew almost as flat as his back; his throat swelled and grew hard, his tongue seemed to be stiff and rolled up to the roof of his mouth, so that he seemed always dumb; had he not vouchsafed to speak a few words once a fortnight or three weeks. This impostor proceeded so far as to accuse a poor, honest, industrious old woman, named Joan Cook, of *Witchcraft*, and of bewitching him in particular; and by his artful behaviour, when she was brought ever so secretly into the room where he was, raised a strong presumption of the truth of his accusation, for which crime of witchcraft the poor woman was apprehended, and obliged to take her trial at the Stafford assizes, to the

the manifest danger of her life, but was acquitted by the jury.

The judges then committed the care of the boy to the Bishop of Litchfield and Coventry, then present in court, who carried him to his palace at Eccleshall; and there having first taken the advice of well approved physicians concerning the state of his body; his Lordship did intend to proceed with him by severities, but in the mean time was informed that the boy always fell into agitation and violent fits, upon hearing the words of St. John's Gospel. *In the beginning was the word, &c.* he resolved to begin with this experiment.

"Boy," said the Bishop, "it is either thou thyself or the devil that abhorrest those words of the Gospel; and if it be the devil there is no doubt but he understandeth all languages; so that he cannot but know, and shew his abhorrence, when I recite the same sentence in the Gospel out of the Greek text; but if it be thyself, then thou art an execrable wretch who playest the devils part, in loathing that part of the Gospel of Christ, which above all other scriptures, doth express the admirable union of the godhead and manhood, in one Christ and Saviour which union is the arch-pillar of man's salvation; therefore look to thyself, for now thou art to be put unto trial, and mark diligently whether it be the same scripture which shall be read unto thee out of the Greek Testament, at the reading whereof, in the English tongue thou doth seem to be so much troubled and tormented."

Then the Bishop read unto him the 12th instead of the 1st. verse of the first chapter of St. John, which the pretended Demoniac supposing to be the first verse, he as usual fell into a fit, which being soon over, the Bishop then read the real first verse in Greek; but he supposing this was some other text, shewed no sort of emotion at this reading.

Here

Here the Bishop would have rested the detection of the impostures, and the youngster seemed greatly confounded at his own mistake; but recovering himself, and resuming various sensations and postures, he excused himself to the company by pretending he was disturbed by the appearance of two mice, complained of great sickness; and in order to get home to his father's house he would answer no more questions; but by writing, as well as he could, signified that he was troubled with a violent pain in his belly. To confirm his complaint he next day contrived to make water *as black as ink*, and continued so to do for two days with tokens of great pain. A circumstance which alarmed the Bishop greatly, and had well nigh obtained his dismissal before the imposture could be sufficiently made out to quiet the minds of the divided people. But by diligence and narrow watching, it was on the third day discovered that he made black water by the help of an inkhorn which stood in one corner of the room; and being taken in the fact, he confessed, and related the manner of imposing so many ways upon the public.

Yours, &c.

CAROLUS

### WONDERS OF THE DEEP.

*Being an exact representation of the River Thames, as it appeared during the memorable Frost, which began about the middle of December, and ended on the 28th of February following, anno 1683-4.*

THIS frost continued with such violence, that men and beasts, coaches and carts, went as frequently thereon, as boats were wont to pass before. *The curious view we have engraved from a most rare and valuable original*, represents an exact prospect of an assemblage of booths, that reached from the Temple to Southwark, and was called *Freezland-Street, alias Blanket Fair*; where was sold all sorts of goods



goods imaginable : namely, clothes, plate, earthen ware, meat, drink, books, prints, toys, and hundreds of other commodities, so that the whole trade of London was for the time the frost continued, confined to the *River Thames*.

This most wonderful frost began, the wind being North West, about the 16th of November 1683, and thence by small thaws continued to the 19th of December ; at which time the wind shifting the compass to North North East, the sun shining, and the weather very clear, till such time as, notwithstanding the resistance of the strongest tides, it so incumbered the Thames with ice, that divers attempting to cross in boats, were frozen in, and there endured much misery, and amongst the rest, one person as he was shooting sea-pyes, was drove out at Black-Wall, and not being able to get off, was starved to death with cold ; but soon after, the ice closing, even from the mouth of the river, to London Bridge, people began to build booths, which by degrees they continued furnishing with all sorts of wares for sale ; but a small thaw made them desist for two days, after when the wind shifting again, it froze more terrible than before. When not only a greater number of booths were erected, than before ; but all manner of sports and pastimes was performed on the river, as well below as above bridge, and the Thames was now known by the name of *Frost Fair*.

The North and South Channels were frozen a league or more into the sea ; as likewise were all the Northern and Eastern ports of England, Scotland, Ireland, Holland, Denmark, Sweden, France, and other countries, so that no commerce could be had, from nation to nation ; but fires were kept in the city of Paris in the open streets. Nor was the hot coast of Spain exempted, and many people died of the extreme cold ; fuel was so scarce in England, that coals were raised from 20s. to 3l. the chaldern. So  
had

that had not their Majesties bounty relieved in a liberal manner the distresses of the people, many must unavoidably have perished of hunger and cold. Their Royal Highnesses Princess Anne, and George of Denmark, with many of the nobility and gentry, followed the Royal example, and rendered many distressed families as happy as food and fuel could make them; notwithstanding which, many of a sickly constitution began to despair of living through the winter; but it so pleased God, that the wind suddenly and beyond expectation, turned to South by West, on the 28th of February; when the thaw began, and it so happened that the next day, the ice, which most people imagined would be the ruin of London Bridge, sunk entirely to the bottom, and large fragments drove to sea out of all the ports; so that the river in a week's time was open for trade, which few expected it would be possible for a month at least; yet divers vessels, and a great many men were lost, in hastily endeavouring to put in at Staines, and many other bridges; abundance of fowl and fish were found dead, and the dismal effects of the hard weather was in every part to be seen:

*Three singular poems were made at the time, on this cover to be remembered Frost, which as they convey a picture of the times, we have given at large, without abridgement. The first is under the plate we took our view from.*

I.

THE various sports behold here in this piece,  
Which for six weeks were seen upon the ice;  
Upon the Thames the great variety  
Of plays and booths is here brought to your eye.  
Here coaches, as in Cheapside, run on wheels,  
Here men (out tipling of the fishes) reels:  
Instead of waves that us'd to beat the shoar,  
Here bulls they bait, till loudly they do roar;

Here boats do slide, where boats were wont to row;  
 Where ships did sail, the sailors do them tow;  
 And passengers in boats the river crost,  
 For the same price as 'twas before the frost.  
 There is the printing booth of wonderous fame,  
 Because that each man there did print his name;  
 And sure, in former ages, ne're was found,  
 A press to print, where men so oft were drown'd.  
 In blanket booths, that sit at no ground rent,  
 Much coin in beef and brandy there is spent.  
 The Dutchmen here in nimble cutting scates,  
 To please the crowd do shew their tricks and feats;  
 The rabble here in chariots run a round,  
 Coffee and tea and mum doth here abound.  
 The tinkers here doth march at sound of kettle,  
 And all men know, that they are men of mettle.  
 Here roasted was an ox before the court,  
 Which to much folks afforded meat and sport;  
 At nine-pins here they play, as in Moorfields,  
 This place the pass-time, us of foot-ball yields.  
 The common hunt here, makes another show,  
 As he to hunt an hare is wont to go;  
 But though no woods are here, or hares so fleet,  
 Yet men do often foxes catch and meet;  
 Into a hole here one by chance doth fall,  
 At which the watermen began to bawl,  
 What will you rob our cellar of its drink?  
 When he alas, poor man, no harm did think.  
 Here men well mounted do on horses ride,  
 Here they do throw at cocks as at Shrovetide:  
 A chariot here so cunningly was made,  
 That it did move itself without the aid  
 Of horse or rope, by virtue of a spring,  
 That Vulcan did contrive, who wrought therein.

The

The rooks at nine-holes here do flock together;  
 As they are wont to do in summer weather.  
 Three ha'p'orth for a penny, here they cry,  
 Of gingerbread, come; who will of it buy?  
 This is the booth where men did money take,  
 For crape and ribbons that they there did make;  
 But in six hours, this great and rary show  
 Of booths and pastimes, all away did go.

## II.

Behold the wonders of Almighty God,  
 Whose looks dry up, or chain the swelling flood;  
 See how his breath lock'd up the wavy Thames,  
 And under rocks of ice confin'd her streams,  
 In spite of Phoebus heat contracted beams;  
 Whilst restless Neptune murmuring underneath,  
 His strange captivity durst scarcely breathe.  
 A trading mart the harden'd waves become,  
 And marble like the watry world intomb;  
 Whilst on its glass glib face strange buildings stand,  
 In spite of throbbing waves, as on the land;  
 Furnish't with trades, that there most things are sold,  
 As vessels of silver, copper, wood, brass, gold;  
 Pewter, tinn, glass, and what could trade create,  
 Wine, beer, ale, brandy, chockolet;  
 Yea, toys, confections, roast-meat, gingerbread,  
 Were there produc'd, on whom some thousands fed:  
 These were not all, books and varieties,  
 Strange to be seen, were there to please men's eyes:  
 Ne're known before, street croud'd upon street,  
 Signs upon signs, mens admiration meet.  
 Printing, an art before ne're public shown,  
 Upon the frozen-flood, to thousands known;  
 Bulls and bears baited, pleasant monkey-shows,  
 Fine eating, swallowing knives, trod iron that glows;

Walk'd on with naked feet, Dutch Flying boats,  
 Coaches swift running, ships as if a float,  
 Drove upon wheels; Dutch whirling, whimsic chair,  
 Turning more swift than unrestrained air.  
 A Freezeland chariot, a self-moving coach,  
 Whose swiftness rais'd mens admiration much.  
 Nine-pins were play'd at, and cock-fighting found,  
 Sliding on scates, fox hunting, as tho' o'th ground.  
 Ox roasted whole, horse-racing, pigin-holes,  
 Great football matches, and a game at bowls;  
 Whilst scatter'd on strong ice there every where,  
 Blanketed, boarded, matted booths appear;  
 And from the Temple to the Barge-house o'er }  
 A wondrous street, the ice long floating bore, }  
 Making throughout but one continued shore. }  
 Shrove Tuesday with cock-throwing usher'd in,  
 Was on the flood made hard by cold wind seen  
 Corn, coles, and wood, o're it daily convey'd,  
 And on the starlings kept the brandy trade;  
 Through bridge, men walk'd, whilst the strong ice below,  
 As that above, could numerous buildings show.  
 Not ships, but sail-cloath mansions, tent-wise fram'd,  
 In which great fires with roast-meat at them fam'd;  
 And some their pamper'd steeds durst proudly prance,  
 Whilst music play'd, drums beat, and men did dance:  
 Streamers wav'd with the wind, and all was bent,  
 To give the kind spectator's due content:  
 Who came in crowds to see that wond'rous sight,  
 Where people on the Thames dwelt day and Night;  
 Whilst strong North winds with unrelenting cold,  
 Imprison'd nature did in fetters hold.  
 But Heaven was kind at last, the South wind blew, }  
 And weeping clouds o're earths hard bosom threw, }  
 Resolving all things with a subtile dew. }

II. Behold

## II.

Behold the wonder of this present age,  
 A famous river now becomes a stage;  
 Question not what I now declare to you,  
 The Thames is now both fair, and market too;  
 And many thousands daily do resort,  
 There to behold the pastime and the sport:  
 Early and late, used by young and old,  
 Who valu'd not the fierceness of the cold;  
 And did not think of that Almighty hand,  
 Who made the waters bear, like to the land.  
 Thousands and thousands to the river flocks,  
 Where mighty flakes of ice do lie like rocks:  
 There may you see the coaches swiftly run,  
 As if beneath the ice were waters none;  
 And sholes of people every where there be,  
 Just like to herrings in the brackish sea;  
 And there the quaking watermen will stand ye,  
 Kind master, drink you beer, or ale, or brandy:  
 Walk in, kind Sir, this booth it is the chief,  
 We'll entertain you with a slice of beef;  
 And what you please to eat and drink, 'tis here,  
 No booth, like mine, affords such dainty cheer.  
 Another cries, here master, they but scoff ye,  
 Here is a dish of famous new made coffee;  
 And some do say, a giddy senseless ass,  
 May on the *Thames* be furnish'd with a lass:  
 But to be short, such wonders there are seen,  
 That in this age before hath never been.  
 Before the Temple there a street is made,  
 And there is one almost of every trade:  
 There may you also this hard frosty winter,  
 See on the rocky ice a working *Printer*,  
 Who hopes by his own art to reap some gain,  
 Which he perchance does think he may obtain;

Here

Here also is a lottery, and music too,  
Yea, a cheating, drunken, bad, and debauch'd crew.  
Hot codlins, pancakes, duck, goose, and sack,  
Rabbit, capon, hen, turkey, and a wooden jack;  
In this same street before the Temple made,  
There seems to be brisk and lively trade;  
Where every booth hath such a cunning sign,  
As seldom hath been seen in former time;  
And there if you have money for to spend,  
Each cunning snap will seem to be your friend.  
There may you see small vessels under sail,  
All's one to them, with or against the gale:  
And as they pass they little guns do fire,  
Which feedeth some, and puffs them with desire.  
They sail therein, and when their money's gone,  
'Tis right, they cry, the Thames to come upon.  
There on a sign you may most plainly see't,  
*Here's the first tavern built in Freezland-street:*  
There is bull baiting and bear baiting too,  
That no man living yet e're found so true;  
And foot-ball play is there so common grown,  
That on the Thames before was never known;  
Coals being dear are carry'd on men's backs,  
And some on sledges there, are drawn in sacks;  
Men do on horseback ride from shore to shore,  
Which formerly in boats were wafted o're:  
Poor people hard shifts make for livelihoods,  
And happy are if they can sell their goods;  
What you can buy for threepence on the shore,  
Will cost you fourpence on the Thames, or more.  
Now let me come to things more strange, yet true,  
And question not what I declare to you;  
There roasted was a great and well-fed ox,  
And there, with dogs, hunted the cunning fox:

Dancing

Dancing o'th' ropes, and puppet-plays likewise,  
The like before n'er seen beneath the skies;  
All stand admir'd, and very well they may,  
To see such pastimes, and such sorts of play:  
Besides the things I nam'd to you before,  
There other toys and haubles are great store;  
There may you feast your wandering eyes enough,  
There you may buy a box to hold your snuff:  
No fair nor market underneath the skies,  
That can afford you more varieties;  
There may you see some hundreds slide in skeets,  
And beaten paths like to the city streets;  
There where Dutch whimsies turned swiftly round,  
Faster than horses run on level ground:  
The like to this I now to you do tell,  
No former age could ever parallel:  
There's all that can supply most curious minds,  
With such varieties of cunning signs;  
That I do think no man doth understand,  
Such merry fancies e'er were on the land;  
There is such whimsies on the frozen ice,  
Makes some believe the Thames a Paradise;  
And though these sights be to our admiration,  
Yet our sins, our sins, do call for lamentation.  
Though such unusual frosts to us are strange,  
Perhaps it may predict some greater change;  
And some do fear may a fore-runner be,  
Of an approaching sad mortality;  
But why should we to such belief incline?  
There's none that knows, but the blest pow'r divine:  
And whatsoever is from Jehovah, sent,  
Poor sinners ought therewith to be content;  
If dreadful, then to fall upon the knee,  
And beg remission of the *Daisy*:

But



But if beyond our thoughts he sends us store,  
 With all our hearts let's thankful be therefore.  
 Now let us all in *Great Jehovah* trust,  
 Who do preserve the righteous and the just;  
 And eke conclude sin is the cause of all  
 The heavy judgements that on us do fall;  
 And call to mind, fond man, thy time mispent,  
 Fall on thy knees, and heartily repent;  
 Then will thy Saviour pity take on thee,  
 And thou shalt live to all eternity.

*A Chronology of REMARKABLE FROSTS in England,  
 from the second year of the Conqueror to the year 1683-4.*

**ANNO 1068**, being the second year of William the Conqueror's reign, a terrible frost began on the 9th of October, which continued till the middle of February following without intermission; it froze up most rivers, particularly the Tweed, Thames, and Humber, and destroying green things of the earth, caused a dearth the ensuing year.

**Anno 1137**, the second year of King Stephen's reign, the Thames and Medway were frozen over, so that divers people passed on foot from shore to shore upon the ice; as likewise did they over other rivers, and some arms of the sea; when the frost continuing from the 10th of November, to the 19th of January; most of the fish in ponds and small rivers were frozen to death: and by reason of the sudden and unusual snow that fell, some hundreds of small cattle were overwhelmed and smothered.

**Anno 1199**, the first year of King John's reign, a great and terrible frost began on the 10th of December, and continued till the middle of March, so that people were forced to make fires in divers streets, to abate the keen-

ness

ness of the air, which notwithstanding numbed divers people to death, and was the cause of a great dearth and mortality the year after.

Anno 1380, the third year of Richard the Second, the Channel between France and England was half frozen over, and most rivers lock'd up; when after about a month's continuance, such abundance of snow fell, that a sudden thaw ensued, many bridges were broken down by the torrent of water, and many houses overwhelmed in the low villages of England, and suburbs of London.

Anno 1484, in the second year of Richard's usurping the crown, a frost began in September, and from thence without much interruption, continued till the latter end of February, so that no grass being to be had, hay was 5*l.* the load, and coals at 9*l.* the chaldern.

In the 19th year of Henry the Eighth's reign, a frost began on the third of November, and held to the 7th of March, with such extremity, that many people were found dead in the streets.

Anno 1612, being the 10th year of King James's reign, a frost happened, which continued seven weeks; during which time the Thames at Lambeth and Whitehall was frozen over, and men passed thereon.

In the 11th year of King Charles the First, a terrible frost happened, which continuing three months without intermission, caused great scarcity to ensue; and did greatly indamage most bridges upon its sudden thaw.

Anno 1664, a terrible frost happened, which continued from the 10th of November to the middle of March, insomuch that the snow lying on the ground, and the rhime on the trees, the wild-fowl in great abundance were found dead in the fields, and many people suffered great misery, by being frozen into the Thames, as they were crossing the water in boats.

Anno 1676, a terrible frost began about the 16th of

274 HUMAN BONES DISCOVERED IN AN ORCHARD.

December, which continued with such violence, that the Thames was frozen over in divers places, except a narrow channel, over which people passed on planks; then and that the first time in our age, that such a number of booths, and all manner of provision, was found upon the congealed flood; which frost endured till the 15th of February, and then by its sudden thaw, broke down many bridges, and raised floods that drowned many sheep, goats, and other small cattle, and otherwise did great damage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WONDERFUL AND SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

In my letter to you dated November 13th, 1803, and which you did me the honour to publish in Vol. I. page 458, of your Museum, wherein I stated my intention of transmitting you more Remarkable Characters, if the subjoined was inserted in it; and which promise I purpose complying with by giving an account of one or more extraordinary persons at the conclusion of the list of Miscellaneous articles, which I have now, and in future shall send for the purpose of appearing to the public through the medium of your valuable and authentic Repository, if you think they will prove entertaining to your numerous readers, to oblige whom it will ever be the wish of your correspondent and constant reader.

Nottingham, April 14, 1804.

D. B. L.

HUMAN BONES DISCOVERED IN AN ORCHARD.

IN the month of April 1760, as some workmen were digging in an orchard, then belonging to Mr. Basil Harrison, near the Cross-Keys, for brick earth, at the depth of about five feet, they found a leaden coffin much decayed, containing the skull and bones of a woman, as supposed; the coffin was six feet long, the head of which was fifteen inches over, twelve deep, and the feet nine inches over. It lay upon some small tiles thought to be the bottom of a vault, and had several characters on them, so much defaced as not to be understood. What was remarkable,

markable is, that under the middle of the coffin was a stone sixteen inches by fourteen, with a hole in the centre four inches square, full of small coal and dust. Several months before this was found, by digging near the same place, an urn fourteen inches deep, and twelve inches over, which was likewise full of small coal and ashes. Many more human bones having at times been dug up in the orchard, makes it believed that it was the burying place belonging to the nunnery or church of St. Sepulchre's, formerly standing near that place for some ages past.



*A list of some uncommon BIRDS and BEASTS discovered in this Country.*

A VERY uncommon Woodcock was in March 1760, killed near Carmarthen, his head and bill was extremely large; the feathers from the crown of the head, and all round his neck to the body, were coal black; his tail was very long, and like a black heath-cock's, tipped with white; his wings were large, and every feather in each was tipped with about an inch of white, and very beautifully speckled all over with black and white spots; the feathers of his body were of the common colour, but mixed throughout with black feathers tipped with white, and all his claws were black. He was made a present of by Mr. Dawson, the person who killed him, to a gentleman then going for London, who promised to get him drawn,

At Colonel Thornton's, Thornville Royal, Yorkshire, at different periods between the years 1783 and 1792, there have been bred a white hare, a white stag, a white mole, a white sparrow, and a white rook; and in the nest of the last specimen were three of the common colour, and two pye-balled.

In June 1788, a white linnet was caught at Baldock, in Hertfordshire.

In November 1797, a white yellow-hammer was killed in the neighbourhood of Lewes.

In November 1797, the keeper killed a hare in the wood near the Horse-course, belonging to Andrew Corbett, Esq. of Shawbury Park, Salop; which weighed rather more than nine pounds; but what is singular, she was quite white. The cause of this change, it is imagined, proceeded, from her being over-heated in a hard course, which she sustained about two years before with a leash of grey-hounds; and though the course was very long, and one of the dogs caught the hare, and died whilst she was in his mouth, yet she then made her escape. The other two dogs were in all appearance dead through fatigue, but by being immediately, and properly treated they recovered. As a proof of its being the same hare she had lost half her scat, as appeared when she was killed. She was often seen, and at last taken by a pointer in her form. Her skin was preserved as a curiosity.

#### A RECOVERY OF SIGHT.

IN April 1792, died at Norwich, in the 86th year of his age, Mr. Nicholas Hubbard. There were two singular circumstances attending his life, which are worthy of notice; his having had 26 children by two wives, and what is more extraordinary, 13 by each wife, and that of his receiving naturally and providentially without any medical assistance, several months before his death, a return of his eye-sight, after his being totally deprived of that inestimable blessing fourteen years, which he retained with increasing strength to the hour of his dissolution.

A REMARKABLE

A REMARKABLE METEOR.

**A** REMARKABLE Meteor was seen in March 1795, at Sheffield, at 25 minutes past 11 o'clock, accompanied with a most tremendous roll, resembling thunder, which lasted one minute and a half. The direction of the Meteor was northward. Its appearance was highly beautiful and magnificent. It appeared to descend in two balls to the earth.



A REMARKABLE TORNADO, OR HURRICANE.

**O**N the 23d of July 1797, about one o'clock in the afternoon, a tornado or hurricane happened near Worksop, in the county of Nottingham; its course was in a north-east direction, and its violence was first perceived on the forest, between Worksop and Monton, where it stript large branches from oak and other trees, scattering them to considerable distances, taking up cocks and even stacks of hay, driving them in every direction; and a wooden barn there was unroofed and thrown down. At Kelton, a little to the north-east, a small cottage and an out house was unroofed, and all the apple-trees in the orchard adjoining torn up by the roots. The storm going on from thence with encreased violence, tearing up some trees, splitting others, and destroying every thing in its way, till arriving at a plantation of spruce furs near Scofton, belonging to Mr. Sutton, where it cut an avenue through it about 30 yards wide, and threw down every tree in its course, except one, which has unaccountably stood, though in the very centre of its progress. This hurricane did not seem to extend above three miles in length, and about 100 yards in breadth. On the day it happened, and on the preceding one, the claps of thunder, with vivid lightning, were frequent and violent: the atmosphere

atmosphere seemed to be strongly impregnated with the electric fluid, which by its action might rarefy the air in a partial or local manner, and thus occasion the above mentioned effects, till the equilibrium was restored.

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JOHN DUNN, A PENURIOUS CHARACTER.

IN the month of July 1795, died in a lodging-house near Gloucester, John Dunn, well known by the name of the *Old Fresh Linen-Man*. He had frequented that city upwards of eighteen years; his appearance was wretched in the extreme, and his garments worse than those worn by a common beggar, whose character he frequently assumed; by which means he procured the greatest necessities of life, and always preferred those places to lodge in where beggars resorted. He was never seen with more than a piece, or a piece and a half of linen in a wretched wallet or bag, thrown across his shoulder, with which he called at every door, and usually travelled a circuit of eighteen or twenty miles at a time. His custom was to go to Ireland six or eight times in the year, where it appears, by receipts found about him, that his trade was so large, that he paid 150*l.* per annum for bleaching only. Finding his dissolution rapidly approaching, he sent for a tradesman, at whose house he had frequently received donations; to him he disclosed his mind, and told him, that he was possessed of a great deal of cash, as well as several packs of linen, in which his money was concealed, in a warehouse on the quay in Gloucester, as well as some goods that were in the city of Chester. On opening the packs at the former place, in the presence of the gentleman, who was accompanied by a clergyman and several others, a considerable quantity of gold and silver was found, very curiously tied up

up in rags and old stockings, in small parcels, and in a variety of covers. The whole was intended to be distributed among his poor relations in Ireland: it appears that he never was married.

MOVEMENT OF THE EARTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

A most extraordinary occurrence having taken place in our neighbourhood, I take the earliest opportunity of transmitting you the particulars, and shall be highly gratified in finding it inserted in the next number of your Original and Entertaining Work,

And am, your obedient servant,

Bristol, May 21, 1804.

ISAAC JAMES.

ON Friday May 4th, 1804, about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, came on at Bristol, a heavy storm of thunder, lightning, hail, and rain, during which the following singular occurrence happened behind Brislington Turnpike, about half a mile from Temple-Gate, in this city, and between the Bath and Wells roads. About half an acre of land, situated on the declivity, between two hills, removed into the field below, carrying with it about 36 yards of the hedge, which is mostly overwhelmed in the ruins. From the uppermost part of the breach to where the hedge stood is about 50 yards: this body of earth (which in some places is nearly ten feet thick) for at least three parts out of four is precipitated into another field; about a fourth part remaining, in a great measure unbroken, in the station from which the foremost part advanced, the progress of which has been about 56 yards. The bed of earth left bare is of a clay texture, and that which lay upon it more inclining to mould, and probably, from

from its situation might have some deep fissures. The rain fell in torrents, insomuch, that at Knowle, on the summit of the hill, the people tell me the Wells road resembled a river. Thus the earth being full of water, and perhaps raised from the bed of clay, would require a great projectile force: and it seems it did, for the bulk of the removed ground has passed over about 30 yards of the field below, leaving the grass (already subricated by the rain) comparatively clean behind it. Its progress must have resembled that of a ship going off the stocks; but I believe no person saw it. Mr. Fletcher, at the turnpike, tells me he perceived nothing of it though it advanced directly behind his house, towards which, he says, it thundred most tremendously. The foremost body of earth is about 36 yards in length, and part of the hedge remains about 8 yards behind the front of it. Another great body has not advanced quite so far, and lies in broken fragments of a pyramidical form. The separation of these two bodies resembles a ditch in a straight line. The hedge has advanced about 48 yards, and the whole length from the top of the breach to the foremost ground is about 106 yards. There is no appearance of the lightning having struck the ground, as was at first supposed. Many thousands of people have been to visit the spot, and still continue to go; and on Sunday, May 13th, two sermons were preached there to several hundred spectators, from the laudable design of making so unusual an occurrence truly beneficial. You have doubtless seen the accounts of the damage done by the lightning at Westover House near Kitton, in the upper road hence to Bath, near which city an occurrence similar to the above took place; at Keynsham also, and other places in this neighbourhood, its effects were severely felt.

EXTRAORDINARY MARRIAGE.

ON April 1st. 1804, was married at Portieu, Citizen Jean Mossequin, aged 103, to his ninth wife, Maria Vascois, aged 19. He died the night after his wedding, leaving behind him 29 children, 49 grand children, and 69 great grand children. Ha! Ha!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM,

Sm,

In looking over some curious old books in my possession, I found a singularly rare tract, which as I think, will suit the purpose of your undertaking, I have transcribed, and enclosed for your use.

Yours, &c.

S. D.

The miraculous preservation and deliverance of EIGHT ENGLISHMEN, left by mischance in GREENLAND, Anno, 1690; were they continued nine months and twelve days, suffering great hardship for want of food, &c.

GREENLAND is a country very far northward, situated in 77 degrees and 40 minutes, that is, within 12 degrees and 20 minutes of the North Pole itself. The land is wonderfully mountainous; and the mountains all the year, covered with ice and snow; the plains in part, are bare in summer, there grows neither tree nor herb, except scurvy-grass and sorrel. The sea is as barren as the land, affording no fish but whales, sea-horses, seales, and another small fish. The Muscovie merchants of London, sent a fleet of small vessels yearly to this place, to catch the whales and sea horses, for the advantage derived by the oil. On the 1st of May, 1690, we, William Fakely, as gunner; Edward Pelham, gunner's-mate; John Wise and Robert Goodfellow, seamen; Thomas Ayers, whale-cutter; Henry Betts, cooper; John Dawes

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and Richard Kellet, landsmen, sailed in a ship called the Salutation, from the port of London; and having a fair gale, we quickly left the fertile banks of England's pleasant shores behind us. After which, setting our comely sails to the supposed prosperous gale, and ranging through the boisterous billows of the rugged seas, by the help and gracious assistance of Almighty God, we safely arrived at our destined port in Greenland, the 11th of June following: whereupon having moored our ships, and carried our casks on shore, we, with all expedition fell to the fitting up of our shallops, with all things necessary for our intended voyage; we were in company three ships, all of which were then appointed, by the order of our Captain, William Goodler, to stay at the Foreland until the 15th of July; with resolution, that if we could not by that time make a voyage to our expectation, then to send one ship to the eastward, unto a fishing place some fourscore leagues from hence, whither at the latter end of the year the whales use more frequently to resort. A second of the three ships was designed for Green-Harbour, (a place some fifteen leagues distant to the southward) and was appointed to stay at the Foreland until the 20th of August; but the Captain having made a great voyage at Bell-Sound, dispatches a Shallop towards our ship, with a command unto us to come to him at Bell-Sound aforesaid: his purpose being, both to have us take in some of his train oil, as also by joining our forces together, to make the fleet so much the stronger for the defence of the merchants goods homeward bound; the Dunkirkers being very strong and rife at sea in those days. Upon the 8th of August leaving the Foreland, we directed our course to the southward, towards Green-Harbour, there to take in twenty of our men, which had out of our ship's company been
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sent into the lesser ship, for the furtherance of her voyage.

But the wind being now contrary, our ship could no way *lie our course*; the 15th day being calm and clear, and our ship now in the offing, some leagues from Black-Point, and about five from the *Maydens happes*, (which is a famous place for good and great store of venison) our master sent eight men of us together in a shallop, for the hunting and killing some venison, for the ship's provision; we thus leaving the ship, and having a brace of dogs along with us, and furnished ourselves with a snap-hance, two lances, and a tinder-box, we directed our course towards the shore, where in four hours we arrived, the weather being at that time fair, clear, and every way seasonable to our intention. That day we laid fourteen tall and nimble deer along, and being very weary and thoroughly tired, first with rowing, and now with hunting, we fell to eat such provisions as we had brought with us, agreeing to take our rest for that night, and the next day to make an end of our hunting, and so return to the ship again. But the next day, as it pleased God, the weather falling out something thick, and much ice in the offing betwixt the shore and the ship (by reason of a southerly wind driving along the coast), our ship was forced so far off to sea to be clear of the ice, that we had quite lost sight of her; neither could we assure ourselves whether she were imlosed in the drift ice or not; and the weather growing thicker and thicker, we thought it our best course to hunt along the shore, and so to go for Green-Harbour, there to stay aboard the ship with the rest of our men, until our own ship, should come into the port.

Coasting thus along towards Green-harbour, we killed eight deer more, and at last having laden our shallop

with venison, we kept on our course for Green-Harbour; where arriving on the 16th day, we found, to our great surprise, that the ship was departed thence, together with our twenty men aforesaid; that which increased our admiration was, we knew they had not victuals sufficient aboard, to serve them by proportion, homeward bound; which made us again to wonder what should be the reason of their so sudden departure.

Perceiving ourselves thus frustrated of our expectation and having now but three bare days (according to appointment) to the uttermost expiration of our limited time for departure out of the country, we thought it our best course to make all possible speed to get to Bell-sound, unto our Captain. Fearing a little delay might bring a great deal of danger, for the lightening therefore of our shallop, that she might make the better way through the waters, we heaved our venison over-board, and cast it all into the sea. Having thus forsaken Green-Harbour, with a longing desire to recover Bell-Sound, (from thence distant some sixteen leagues to the southward) that night we got half way about the point of the Nesse, or point of Land, called Low-Nesse, but the darkness or misty fog increasing so fast upon us, that it was impossible for us to get further; and there between two rocks we coved from the 17th day at night, until the 18th day at noon; at which time the weather being something clearer (though very thick still) we left the Nesse behind us, still desirous to recover Bell-Sound; but having never a compass to direct our course by, nor any of our company that was pilot sufficient to know the land. When we saw it, we were fain to grabble in the dark, as it were, like a blind man for his way; and so over-shot Bell-Point, at least ten leagues to the southward, towards Hond-Sound.

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Some of us in the mean time, knowing that it was impossible to be so long a rowing and sailing of eight leagues (for we did both row and sail) made enquiry of one another, how the harbour lay; most of us judging that it could not possibly be further to the southward; our reason being our observation of the lands *rounding away and trending*, towards the eastward. We resolved thereupon to row no further on that course, for the finding of Bell-Sound; and though we were persuaded by William Fakely our gunner, (a proper seaman, though less skilful mariner, who had been in the country five or six times before, which none of our seamen had been), that it was further to the southward, yet we, trusting better to our own reasons than unto his persuasions, again returned towards the northward, which was our best and direct course indeed, for the finding the Bell-Sound: Steering of which course, we were now come within two miles of Bell-Point, and the weather being fair and clear, we presently descried the tops of the lofty mountains; William Fakely thereupon looking about him, presently cries out unto us, "*that we were all this while upon a wrong course.*" Upon hearing which words, some of our company, yea the most, were persuaded to turn about the boat's head a second time, unto the southward; which one action, was the main and only cause of our too late repentance; though for my own part, as it is well known, I never gave consent to their counsel.

And thus upon the fatal 20th day of August, which was the utmost day of our limited time for staying in the country; we again returned the quite contrary way, namely to the southward, utterly uncertain when, and where to find the sound; a thousand sad imaginations overtaking our perplexed mind; all of us assuredly knowing, that a million of miseries would of necessity ensue, if we found not the ships to save our passage. In this distracted

distracted time of our thoughts, we were now the second time running as far to the southward as at the first; but finding there was no likelihood of finding any such a place further to the south, we turned the shallop again to the northward; William Fakely hereupon, being unwilling to condescend unto our agreement, still *saying it could not be our course*: but we not trusting longer to his opinion (though all in him was out of good will and conceit of being in the right), and he not consenting to steer any longer, I took the oar out of his hand to steer the boat withal. The weather all this while continued fair and clear, and it pleased God at the very instant to send the wind easterly; which advantage we thankfully embraced, and presently set sail. The wind increasing fresh and large, and our shallop swiftly running, we arrived the 21st day at Bell-Point, where we found the wind right out of the sound, at East North East, so fiercely blowing, that we could not possibly row to windward; but being forced to take in our sail, we were fain to betake ourselves unto our oars, by help of which we recovered some two miles within the shore, where we were constrained for that time to cove, or else to drive to leeward.

Finding this to be the place we had all this while sought for (he now also agreeing thereunto) we forthwith sought out and found a harbour for our shallop; and having brought her into it, two of our men were presently dispatched over-land, unto the tent at Bell-Sound, to see if the ships were still there; of which, by reason of the time being expired, and the opportunity of the present high wind, we were much afraid. The tent being distant ten miles at least from our shallop, our men at their coming thither, and finding the ships to be departed out of the road, and not being certain, whether or not they might be at Bottle-Cove, three leagues distant on the other

other side the sound, riding there under the loom of the land; again returned to us with their sad news. The storm of wind continuing till about midnight, it fell to a stark calm; whereupon we, unwilling to lose the opportunity, departed towards Bottle-Cove, betwixt hope and fear of finding the ships there. Whither coming the 22d and finding the ships departed, we having neither pilot or compass for our directors to the eastward, found ourselves (God he knoweth) to have little hope of any delivery out of this apparent danger. Our fears increased upon us, even whilst we consulted together, "whether it were safest to go or stay: if to go, then we thought of the dangers in sailing, by reason of the ice in our way; as also of the difficulty in finding the place, when we should come thereabout. If we resolved still to remain at Bell-Sound, then we thought that no other thing could be looked for, but a miserable and pining death, seeing there appeared no possibility of inhabiting there, or to endure so long, so darksome a winter.

And thus were our thoughts at that time distracted, thus were our fears increased; nor were they careless fears. Well we knew that neither *Christian* or *Heathen* people, had ever before inhabited those desolate and intemperate climates. This also, to increase our fears, had we certainly heard, how that the merchants having in former times much desired, and that with proffer of great rewards for the hazarding of their lives, and of sufficient furniture and provision of all things that might be thought necessary for such an undertaking, to any that would adventure to winter in those parts; could never yet find any so hardy, as to expose their lives unto so hazardous an undertaking; yea, notwithstanding these proffers had been made, both unto mariners of good experience and noble resolutions, and also unto divers other bold

bold spirits; yet had the action of wintering in those parts, never by any been hitherto undertaken. This also had we heard, how that the company of Muscovie merchants, having once procured the reprieve of some malefactors, that had at home been convicted by law, for some heinous crimes committed; and that both promise of pardon for their faults, with addition of rewards also, if so be they would undertake to remain in Greenland but one whole year, and that every way provided for too, both of clothes, victuals, and all things else, that might be any way needful for their preservation. These poor wretches hearing of this large proffer, and fearing present execution at home, resolved to make trial of the adventure. The time of the year being come, and the ships ready to depart, these condemned creatures were embarked, who, after a certain space arriving, and taking a view of the desolateness of the place, they conceived such a horror and inward fear in their hearts, that they resolved rather to return to England to make satisfaction with their lives, for their former faults committed, than there to remain, though with assured hope of pardon. Insomuch as the time of year being come that the ships were to depart from these barren shores, they made known their full intent to the Captain; who being a pitying and merciful gentleman, would not by force constrain them to stay in that place, which was contrary to their minds; but having made his voyage and the time expired, he again embarked and brought them over with him to England; where, through the intercession and means of the worshipful company of Muscovie Merchants, they escaped that death, which they had before been condemned unto. The remembrance of these two stories, as also a third, (more terrible than both the former), for that was likely to be our own story more

more miserably now affrighted us; and that was the lamentable and unmanly ends, of nine good and able men, left in the same place heretofore, by the self same master that now left us behind; who all died miserably upon the place, being cruelly disfigured after their deaths, by the savage bears, and hungry foxes, which are not only the civilest, but also the only inhabitants of that comfortless country: the lamentable ends and miscarriage of which men, had been enough indeed to have daunted the spirits of the most noble resolution.

All these fearful examples presenting themselves before our eyes, at this place of Bottle-Cove aforesaid, made us like amazed men, to stand looking one upon another, all of us, as it were beholding in the present, the future calamities, both of himself, and of his fellows; and thus, like men already metamorphosed into the ice of the country, and already past both our sense and reason, we stood with eyes of pity beholding one another.

Nor was it other men's examples and miscarriages, and fears alone, that made us amazed; but it was the consideration of our want of all necessary provision for the life of man, that already struck us to the heart, for we were not only unprovided both of clothes to keep us warm, and of food to prevent the wrath of cruel famine, but utterly destitute also of a sufficient house, wherein to shrowd and shelter ourselves from the chilling cold. Thus for a space, standing all mute and silent, weighing with ourselves the misery we were already fallen in, and knowing that delay in these extremities to be the mother of all dangers; we began to conceive hope, even out of the depth of despair. Rousing up our benumbed senses therefore, we now lay our heads and counsel together, to bethink of the likeliest course for our preservation in that place, seeing that all hopes of gaining our passage to England were then quite frustrated. Shaking

off therefore, all childish fear, it pleased God to give us hearts like men, to arm ourselves with a resolution to do our best for the resisting of that monster of desperation. An agreement thereupon, by a general consent of the whole company, we then entered into, to take the opportunity of the next fair weather, and go for Green-Harbour, to hunt and kill venison, for part of our winter provision.

Having thus agreed among ourselves, the 25th of August, the wind and weather being both fair, we directed our course towards Green-Harbour, some sixteen leagues, as I before said, distant from Bell-Sound; and the wind being fresh and fair, within the space of twelve hours we there arrived; upon which place being now landed, the first thing we did, was to make us a tent with the sail of our shallop, pitched up and spread upon our oars; under this shelter we resolved to rest ourselves that night, and to refresh our bodies with such food as we there had; and the next day to return to our hunting. The weather that night proving fair and clear, we made our sleep the shorter, and fitting ourselves and shallop the best way we could, proceeded to Coles-Park, some two leagues distant from us, and well known to Thomas Ayres, to be well stored with venison. Coming on shore here, we found not so many deer as we expected from his report; but killed seven that day, and four bears beside, which we also intended to eat.

The weather beginning now to overcast, and not likely to continue good for hunting, we that night returned again to Green-Harbour; where making us a tent of our sails and oars as before, we fell to eat of such meat as God had sent us, and betook ourselves to rest upon it; and now finding the weather to clear up, we broke off our sleep for that time, fitting ourselves and two dogs to go a hunting, leaving William Fakely and John Dawes, behind us, in the tent at Green-Harbour, to dress some meat for refreshment at our return.

Departing

Departing from the tent, we rowed towards Colepark; in the way, upon the side of a hill, by the sea side, we espied seven deer feeding, on which we rowed to the place, and with the help of our dogs killed six of them; after which the weather again overcasting, we thought it to little purpose to go any farther at that time, but resolved to hunt all along the side of that hill, and so at night to return to our tent: going thus along we killed six deer more, which he had no sooner done, but it began to blow and rain, and to be very dark; whereupon we hasted towards the tent, there intending to refresh ourselves with victuals, and with rest for that night, and the next day to renew our hunting. This purpose of ours, was by the foul weather the next day prevented, for it fell so black, so cold, and so windy, that we judged it no way fitting for our purpose. Lading our own shallop, with the bears and venison we had killed, and finding another shallop left by some other ship's company, we loaded that with the graves of the whales, that had been boiled this present year, which we found in great quantities strewed upon the ground, and divided ourselves into two equal companies; William Fakely with one seaman, and two landmen with him, taking charge of one shallop, and myself, another seaman, and two landmen, taking charge of the other: we thus committed ourselves to the sea, intending with the next fair weather to go to Bell-Sound to our tent, which was the place we intended to remain at during the winter.

To Bell-sound therefore we went, with a purpose there to lay up the store of what provision we had already got together, and with the next fair wind to come back again to the place we now left, to try if it were possible to provide ourselves with some more venison for our winter provision.

Having thus laden both our shallops, appointed our
company

company, and all ready for departure, we were overtaken with darkness, and there forced to stay for that night. The next day was Sunday; wherefore we thought it fit to sanctify the rest of it, and to continue there till Monday, and to make the best use we could of that good day, taking the best course we could for the serving God Almighty; although we had not a book among us all, or found one the whole time we staid in the country.

The sabbath day being shut up by the approaching night, we betook ourselves to rest, sleeping till the sun awakened us, by beginning to shew himself upon the Monday morning. The day was no sooner peeped, but we got up, fitting ourselves and business for departure; the weather was fair and clear at first, but after few hours rowing, the sky began to be overcast, and the wind blew so hard, that we could not possibly get to Bell-Sound that night, but coved half way, until the next morning, at which time we recovered Bottle-Cove. To which place, when we were once come, we found the wind then at south-west, to blow so hard, that it was impossible to reach Bell-Sound, but were forced to stay at Bottle-Cove for that night. Our shallops we made fast one to the other, with a rope fastening the head of one to the stern of the other, and so casting our grabnell or anchor overboard, we left them riding in the cove.

But see now what a mischance, for the trial of our patience, and for the making us to rely more upon his providence, than upon any outward means of our own, God now suffered to befall us. We were all now on shore, the south-west wind now blew so hard and right into the cove, that it made the sea go so high; our anchor ~~the~~ coming home at the same time, both our shallops cutting along the shore, sunk presently in the sea, wetting by this means our whole provision; the weather withal breaking some of it out of the boats, which we found swimming up

and down the shore; for coming out of our tent in the mean time, judge what a sight this was to us, to see by mischance, the best part of our provision (the only hope of our lives) to be in danger utterly to be lost, or at least spoiled with the sea water, and for which we had taken such pains, and run such adventures in the getting. In this distress we saw no way but one, and that very desperate, namely, to run presently into the *high-wrought* sea, getting by that means into our shallops, to save the remainder of our provisions, ready now to be washed away by the billows. A Halser thereupon we got, which fastening unto our shallops, we with a crabbe, or capstan, by main force of hand heaved them out of the water upon the shore, this done, along the sea side we go, seeking and taking up such of our provision, as were swam away from our shallops. Having by this means gleaned up all that could be gotten together, we resolved from thenceforth to let our boats lie upon the shore, till such time as the weather should prove fair and better, and then go over to Bell-Sound.

The third of September, the weather proving favorable, we forthwith launched our shallops into the water, and got that day to Bell-Sound, thither as soon as we came, our first business was, to take our provision out of our shallops into the tent; our next, to take a particular view of the place, and of the great tent especially, as being the place of our intended habitation for the ensuing winter. This which we called the great tent, was a kind of house, built of timber very substantial, and covered with Flemish tiles; by the men of which nation it had in the time of their trading hither been built; it was four score feet in length, and fifty in breadth; its use was for the coopers, employed for the service of the company to work, lodge, and live in, during the time they are making the casks for the barrelling up the train oil. Our view being taken, we found the weather beginning to alter strangely, and the

the nights, and frosts, so to grow on us, that we durst not adventure upon another voyage to Green-Harbour; fearing the sound would be frozen, and that we should never be able to get back to our tent again. By land it was, we knew in vain for us to think of returning, for the country is so very mountainous, that there is no travelling that way.

Things being at this pass with us, we bethought ourselves of building another small tent with all expedition, the place must of necessity be within the greater tent; with our best wits therefore taking a view of the place, we resolved upon the southside, and began with taking down another lesser tent (built for the use of the landmen hard by the other, wherein they lodged whilst they made the oil) from thence we brought the materials, which furnished us with 150 deal boards, besides posts or stanchions and rafters; from three chimneys of the furnaces, wherein they used to boil their oils, we brought a thousand bricks, there also we found three hogsheads of very fine lime, of which we likewise fetched another hogshead from Bottle-Cove, on the other side of the sound, some three leagues distant; mingling this lime with the sand of the sea shore, we made very excellent mortar for the laying of our bricks; falling to work whereon, the weather was so extreme cold, as that we were fain to make two fires to keep our mortar from freezing. William Fakely and myself undertaking the masonry part, began to raise a wall of one brick thickness, against the inner planks of the side of the tent; whilst we were laying the bricks, the rest of our company were otherwise employed, some in taking them down, others in making them clean, and bringing them in baskets to the tent; some in making mortar, and hewing of boards to build the other side, others too in flaying our venison. Having built the two outermost sides of the tent with bricks and mortar, and our
bricks

bricks now almost spent, we were enforced to build the other two sides with boards, in the following manner. First we nailed our deal-boards on one side of the post or stanchion, to the thickness of one foot, and on the other side in like manner; and so filling up the hollow place between with sand, it became so tight and warm, as not the least breath of air could penetrate; our chimney's vent was into the greater tent, being the breadth of one deal board, about four foot long. The length of this, our tent was twenty foot, and the breadth sixteen; the height ten; our ceiling being deal boards five or six times double, the middle of one joining so close to the close of the other, that no wind could possibly get between. As for our door, besides our making it so close as possibly it would shut, we lined it with a bed which we found lying there, and came over both the opening and shutting of it; for windows, we made none at all, so that our light we brought in through the greater tent, by removing two or three tiles in the eaves, which light came to us through the vent of our chimney. Our next work was to set up four cabins, billeting ourselves two and two in a cabin; our beds were the deer's skins dried, which we found to be extraordinary warm, and a very comfortable lodging to us in our distress. Our next care then was for firing to dress our meat, and for keeping away the cold. Examining therefore, all the shallops that had been left ashore there by the ships, we found seven of them very crazy, and not serviceable for the next year. Those we made bold with, broke them up, and carried them into our house, stowing them over the beams in manner of a floor; intending also to stow the rest of our firing over them so to make the outer tent the warmer, and to keep the snow from drifting through the tiles into the tent; which snow would otherwise have covered every thing, and have hindered us from coming to what we wanted.

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When the weather was now grown cold, and the days short, (or rather no days at all) we began to stave some empty casks that were left there the year before, to the quantity of one hundred ton at least; we also made use of some planks and of two old coolers, (wherein they cooled their oil), and whatever we thought might be spared without damnifying the next year's voyage. Having got together all the firing that we possibly could make, except we should make spoil of the shallops and coolers that were there, which might easily have overthrown the next year's voyage, to the great hinderance of the worshipful company, whose servants we being, were every way careful of their profit. Comparing therefore the small quantity of our wood, together with the coldness of the weather, and the length of time that we were likely to abide, we cast about to husband our stock as thriftily as we could, devising to try a new conclusion: our trial was this, when we raked up our fire at night, with a good quantity of ashes and embers, we put into the midst of it a piece of elm-wood, where after it had lain about sixteen hours, we at our opening of it found great store of fire upon it, whereupon we made a common practice of it ever after. It never went out in eight months together, or thereabouts.

Having thus provided both our house and firing, upon the 12th of September a small quantity of drift ice came driving to and fro in the sound. Early in the morning therefore we arose, and looking every where abroad, we at last espied two sea-horses lying asleep upon a piece of ice; presently thereupon taking up an old harping iron that lay in the tent, and fastening a grapple rope to it, we launched out our boat to row towards them, and coming something near, we perceived them still asleep, and I steering, bid the rowers to hold still their oars, for fear of awaking them with the crashing of the ice;

ice; and I skulling the boat easily along, came so near at length to them, that the shallops even touched one, at which instant William Fakely being ready with his harping iron, heaved it so strongly into the old one, that he quite disturbed her of her rest; after which she receiving five or six thrusts with our lances, fell into a sounder sleep of Death. Thus having dispatched the old one, the younger being loath to leave her dam, continued swimming so long about our boat, that with our lances we killed her also. Hauling them both after this into the boat, we rowed ashore, flayed our sea-horses, cut them in pieces, to roast and eat them; the 19th of the same month; we saw other sea-horses, sleeping in like manner upon several pieces of ice, but the weather being cold, they designed not to sleep so much as before; and therefore we could kill but one of them, of which being right glad, we returned again to our tent.

The nights at this time, and the cold weather increased so fast upon us, that we were out of all hope of getting any more food, before the next spring; our only hopes where, to kill a bear now and then, that might by chance wander that way. The next day therefore taking an exacter survey of our stock of provision, and finding our proportion too small by half, for our time and company, we agreed among ourselves to come to allowance, that is, to stint ourselves to one reasonable meal a day, and to keep Wednesdays, and Fridays fasting days, excepting from the *frittars* or *graves* of the whale, (a very loathsome meat) of which we allowed ourselves sufficient to satisfy our present hunger; and at this diet we continued some three months, or thereabouts.

Having by this time finished whatever we possibly could invent for our preservation in that desolate place, our clothes and shoes also, were worn and tore to pieces;

and we must of necessity invent some new device for their reparation. Of rope-yarn therefore, we made us thread, and of whale-bones needles to sew our clothes and shoes. The nights began to be very long, and by the 10th of October the cold so violent, that the sea was frozen over; which had been enough to have daunted the most assured resolution. At which time our business being over, and nothing now to exercise our minds upon; our heads began then to be troubled with a thousand sorts of imaginations. Then had we leisure (more than enough) to complain ourselves of our present most miserable condition. Then had we time to bewail our wives and children at home; and to imagine what news our unfortunate miscarriages must needs be to them. Then thought we of our parents also, and what a cutting corrosive it would be to them, to hear of the untimely deaths of their children. Other times again, we revive ourselves with some comfort, that our friends might take, in hoping it would please God to preserve us, untill the next year. Sometimes did we vary our griefs; complaining one while of the cruelty of our master, that would leave us to these distresses; and then presently again we fell, not only to excuse him, but to lament both him and his company, fearing they had been overtaken by the ice, and miserably that way perished.

Thus tormented in mind with our doubts, our fears, and our griefs, and in our bodies with hunger, cold, and wants, that hideous monster of desperation, began now to present his ugliest shape unto us; he now pursued us—he now laboured to seize upon us. Thus finding ourselves in a labyrinth, as it were, of a perpetual misery, we thought it not best to give too much way to our griefs; fearing they also would, most of all, have wrought upon our weakness. Our prayers we now redoubled unto the Almighty

Almighty, for strength and patience, in these our miseries; and the Lord graciously listened unto us, and granted these our petitions. By his assistance therefore, we shook off these thoughts, and cheered up ourselves again, to use the best means for our preservation. Now therefore, we began to think of our venison, and of preserving it; and how to order our firing in this cold weather: for fear therefore our firing should fail us at the end of the year, we thought it best, to roast every day half a deer, and to stow it in hogsheads, which we now put in practice, and soon filled three hogsheads, leaving so much raw, as would serve to roast every sabbath-day a quarter; and so for Christmas-day and the like. This conclusion being made among us, then fell we again to bethink us of our miseries both passed and to come: and how, though it pleased God to give us life, yet we lived as banished men, not only from our friends, but from all other company. Next we thought of the pinching cold, and of the pining hunger: these were our thoughts, this our discourse to pass away the time, but as if all this misery had been too little, we presently found another increase of it; for examining our provision once more, we found that all our Frittars of the whale were almost spoilt with the wet they had taken; after which by lying so close together, they were now grown mouldy: and our bear and venison we perceived again not to amount to such a quantity, as to allow us five meals a week; whereupon we were fain to shorten our stomachs of one meal more; so that for the space of three months after that, we for four days in the week fed upon the unsavory and mouldy frittars, and the other three, we feasted it with bear and venison. But as if it were not enough for us to want meat, we now began to want light also, all our meals proved suppers now; for little light could we see; even the glorious sun, (as if un-

willing to behold our miseries) masking his lovely face from us, under the sable veil of coal-black night. Thus from the 14th of October, till the 3d of February, we never saw the sun; nor did he all that time, so much as ever peep above the horizon. But the moon we saw at all times, day and night (when the clouds obscured her not,) shining as bright as in England. The sky, tis true is very much troubled with thick and black weather all the winter time; so that we could not see the moon so well at all times; or discern, what point of the compass she bore upon us. A kind of day-light we had indeed, which glimmered some eight hours a day unto us; in October time I mean; for from thence until the 1st of December, even that light was shortened ten or twelve minutes a day constantly: so that from the 1st of December till the 20th there appeared no light at all, but all was one continued night. All that we could perceive was, that in a clear season now and then, there appeared a little glare of white, like some show of day towards the south; but no light at all. And this continued till the 1st of January, by which time we might perceive the day a little to increase. All this darksome time, no certainty could we have when it should be day, or when night; only myself out of my own little judgment, kept the observation of it thus. First bearing in mind the number of the epact, I made my addition by a day supposed, (though not absolutely to be known by reason of the darkness) by this I judged the age of the moon; and this gave me my rule of passing the time; so that at the coming of the ships into the port, I told them the day of the month as directly as they themselves could tell me. At the beginning of this darksome, irksome time, we sought some means of preserving light among us; finding therefore a piece of sheet-lead over a seam of one of the coolers,

coolers, we ript it off and made three lamps of it; which maintaining with oil that we found in the coopers tent and rope yarn serving us instead of candlewicks, we kept them continually burning; and this was a great comfort to us in our extremity. Thus did we our best to preserve ourselves; but all this could not secure us: for we in our own thoughts, accounted ourselves but dead men; and that our tent was then our darksome dungeon, and we did but wait our trial by our Judge, to know whether we should live or die. Our extremities being so many, made us in impatient speeches to break forth against the causers of our miseries: but then again, our consciences telling us of our own evil deservings, we took it either for a punishment upon us, for our former wicked lives, or else for an example of God's mercy, in our wonderful deliverance; and humbling ourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, we cast down ourselves in prayer, two or three times a day, which course we constantly held all the time of our misery.

The new year now begun, *and as the days began to lengthen, so the cold began to strengthen*; which cold came at last to that extremity, as that it would raise blisters in our flesh, as if we had been burnt with fire; and if we touched *iron* at any time, it would stick to our fingers like *bird-lime*. Sometimes if we went but out of the door to fetch in a little water, the cold would nip us in such sort, that it made us as sore as if we had been beaten in some cruel manner. All the first part of the winter we found water under the ice, that lay upon the *bache* on the sea-shore. Which water issued out of a high bay, or cliff of ice, and ran into the hollow of the *bache*, there remaining with a thick ice over it; which ice, we at one certain place daily digging through with pick-axes, took as much water as served for our drinking.

This continued until the 10th of January, and then we were fain to make shift with snow-water, which we

melted

melted by putting hot irons into it; and this was our drink until the 20th of May following. By the end of January the days were grown to seven or eight hours long; and then we again took another view of our victuals, which we now found to grow so short, that it would no way last us above six weeks longer. And this bred a further fear of famine among us. But our recourse was in this, as in other extremities, unto Almighty God, who had helps we knew, though we saw no hopes; and thus spent we our time until the 3d of February, which proved a marvellous cold day; yet a fair and clear one, about the middle whereof, all clouds now quite dispersed, and night's sable curtain drawn; Aurora with her golden face smiled once again upon us, at her rising out of her bed; for now the glorious Sun with his glittering beams, began to gild the highest tops of the lofty mountains. The brightness of the sun, and the whiteness of the snow, both together was such, as that it was able to have revived even a dying spirit. But to make a new addition to our new joy, we perceived two bears (as she one with her cub) now coming towards our tent; whereupon we straight arming ourselves with our lances, issued out of the tent to await her coming; she soon cast her greedy eyes upon us; and with full hope of devouring us, she made the more haste unto us; but with our hearty lances we gave her such a welcome, as that she fell down on the ground, tumbling up and down, biting the snow for very anger. Her cub seeing this, by flight escaped us. The weather now was so cold, that longer we were not able to stay abroad; retiring therefore into our tent, we first warmed ourselves, and then out again to draw the dead bear in unto us. We flayed her, cut her into pieces of a stone weight or thereabouts, one of which served us for our dinner; and upon this bear we fed some twenty days, for she was very good flesh, and better than our venison

This

This only mischance we had with her, that upon the eating of her liver, our skins peeled off. For mine own part, I being sick before, by eating of that liver, though I lost my skin, yet recovered I my health upon it. She being spent, either we must seek some other meat, or else fall aboard with our roast venison in the cask, which we were very loth to do, for fear of famishing, lest that should be exhausted before the fleet arrived from England. Amidst these our fears, it pleased God to send divers bears into our tent; some forty at least, as we accounted. Of which number we killed seven; on the 2d of March one, the 4th another; and on the 10th a wonderful great bear, six foot high at least. All which we flayed, and roasted upon wooden spits (having no better kitchen furniture than that, and a frying-pan which we found in the tent.) They were as good savoury meat, as any beef could be. Having thus gotten good store of such food, we kept not ourselves now to such straight allowance; but eat frequently two or three meals a-day, which began to increase strength and ability of body in all of us.

By this, the chearful days so fast increased, that the several sorts of fowls, which had all the winter time avoided those quarters, began now again to resort thither, unto their summer-abiding. The 16th of March, one of our two mastiff dogs went out of the tent from us in the morning; but from that day he never returned to us, nor could we hear what was become of him. The fowls that I before spoke of, constantly use every spring time to resort into that coast, being used to breed there most abundantly. Their food is a certain kind of small fish. Yearly upon the abundant coming of these fowls, the foxes which had all the winter kept their burrows under the rocks, begin to come abroad, and seek for their livings. For them we set up three traps, like rat-traps, and baited them with the skins of these fowls, which we had found
upon

upon the snow, they falling their in there flight from the hill, whereupon they breed, towards the sea; for this fowl being about the size of a duck, hath her legs placed so close unto her rump, as that when they alight once upon the land, they are very rarely (if ever) able to get up again, by reason of the misplacing of their legs, and the weight of their bodies; but being in the water, they raise themselves with their pinions well enough. After we had made these traps, and set them apart one from another, in the snow, we caught fifty foxes in them; all which we roasted, and found very good meat of them; then took we a bear's skin, and laying the flesh-side upward, we made springs of whale-bone, wherewith we caught about sixty of those fowls, about the size of a pigeon.

Thus continued we until the 1st of May, and the weather then growing warm, we were now pretty able to go abroad to seek for more provision. Every day therefore abroad we went, but nothing could we encounter until the 24th, when espying a buck, we thought to have killed him with our dog; but he was grown so fat and lazy, that he could not pull down the deer. Seeking further out therefore, we found abundance of *willock's* eggs; (which is a fowl about the bigness of a duck) of which eggs though there were great store, yet we being but two of us together, brought but thirty of them to the ten that day, thinking the next day to fetch a thousand more of them; but the day proved so cold, with an easterly wind, that we could not stir out of our tent.

Staying at home therefore upon the 25th of May, we for that day omitted our ordinary custom, our order of late (since the fair weather) was, every day or every second day, to go up to the top of a mountain, to spie if we could discern the water in the sea, break the main ice within the Sound, which until the day before, we had
not

not seen. At which time, a storm of wind coming out of the sea broke the ice, and the wind coming easterly, carried all the ice into the sea, and cleared the Sound a great way; although not near the shore at first, seeing the clear water came not near our tent by three miles at least.

This 25th of May therefore, we all day staying in the tent, there came two ships of Hull into the Sound; who knowing that there had been men left there the year before, the master (full of desire to know whether we were alive or dead) manned out a shallop from the ship, with order to row as far up the sound as they could, and then to hawl up their shallop, and travel over-land upon the snow unto the tent. These men at their coming ashore, found the shallop which we had hauled from our tent into the water, with a purpose to go seek some sea-horses the next fair weather; the shallop being then already fitted with all necessaries for that enterprize. This sight brought them into a quandary; and though this encounter made them hope, yet their admiration made them doubt, that it was not possible for us to remain alive.

Taking therefore our lances out of the boat, towards the tent they come; we never so much as perceiving of them, for we were all gathered together, now about to go to prayers in the inner tent, only Thomas Ayers was not yet come in to us out of the greater tent; the Hull men now coming near our tent, hailed it with the usual word of the sea, crying Hey! he answered again with Ho! which sudden answer almost amazed them all, causing them to stand still, half afraid at the matter. But we within hearing of them, joyfully came out of the tent; all black as we were with the smoak, and with our clothes all tattered with wearing so long. This uncouth sight made them further amazed at us; but perceiving us to be the very men left there all the year, with joyful hearts they

embraced us; and we them in return: they came into our tent where we shewed them the courtesy of the house, and gave them such victuals as we had; which was venison roasted four months before, and a cup of cold water, which for novelty's sake they kindly accepted of us.

Then fell we to ask them, what *news*? and of the state of the land at home? and when the London fleet would come? to all which, they returned us the best answers they could.

Agreeing then to leave the tent, with them we went to their shallop, and so a-board the ship; where we were welcomed after the heartiest and kindest English manner; and there we stayed ourselves until the coming of the London fleet, which we much longed for: hoping by them to hear from our friends in England. We were told that they would be there next day; but it was full three days ere they came, which seemed to us as tedious a three days as any we had yet endured; so much we now desired to hear from our friends, our wives, and children.

The 28th of May, the London fleet came into the port to our great comfort, a-board the admiral we went, unto the right noble Captain William Goodler, who is worthy to be honoured by every seaman for his courtesy and bounty. This is the gentleman that is every year chief commander of this fleet; and right worthy so to be, being a wise man, and an expert mariner as any in England.

Unto this gentleman right welcome we were; and joyfully by him received: he giving order, that we should have any thing that was in the ship, that might do us good, and increase our strength; of his own charge giving us apparel also, to the value of twenty pounds.

Thus after fourteen days of refreshment, we grew perfectly well all of us; whereupon the noble captain sent William Fakely, and John Wyse, (Mason's own apprentice) and Thomas Ayers the whale cutter, with Robert Goodfellow,

Goodfellow, unto Master Mason's ship, according as themselves desired. But thinking there to be as kindly welcomed as the lost prodigal, these poor men, after their enduring so much misery, (which through his means partly they had undergone) no sooner came they on board his ship, but he most unkindly called them "*Runaways*," with other harsh unchristian terms, far enough from the civility of an honest man.—Noble Captain Goodler understanding all these passages, was right sorry for them, resolving to send for them again, but that the weather proved so bad and uncertain. I for my own part remained with the Captain still at Bottle Cove, according to my own desire: as for the rest that staid with him, he preferred the landmen to row in the shallops for the killing of the whales; freeing them thereby from their toilsome labour on shore, bettering their means besides, and all these favours did this worthy gentleman for us.

Thus were we well contented now to stay there till the 20th of August, hoping then to return to our native country: which day of departure being come, and we embarked, with joyful hearts we set sail through the foaming ocean, and though crossed sometimes with contrary winds homeward bound; yet our proper ships at last came safely to an anchor in the River Thames, to our great joy and comfort, and the merchants benefit. And thus by the blessing of God came we all eight of us well home, safe and sound; where the worshipful company our masters, the Muscovie merchants, have since dealt wonderfully well by us.. For all which most merciful preservation, and most wonderfully powerful deliverance, all honor, praise, and glory be unto the great God, the sole author of it, and grant us to make the right use of it.

Amen!

*Extraordinary Execution of the MAYOR of BODMIN, in
CORNWALL, by Sir WILLIAM KINGSTON, in the Reign
of EDWARD the VIth.*

A REBELLION happening in the reign of King Edward VI. upon the alteration of religion, and the rebels being defeated, what shameful sport did Sir William Kingston make with men in misery, by virtue of his office of Provost Marshal ! One Bowyer, Mayor of Bodwin, in Cornwall, had been among the rebels not willingly, but by constraint. Sir William sent him word he would dine with him on such a day, for whom the Mayor made a hospitable entertainment. A little before dinner, the Provost took the Mayor aside, and whispered in his ear, ‘ That there must be an execution that afternoon ;’ and therefore ordered him to cause a gallows to be set up over against his own door. The Mayor obeyed his command ; and, after dinner, the Provost took the Mayor by the hand, and desired him to lead him to the place of execution ; which, when he beheld, he asked the Mayor, “ If he thought it was strong enough.” “ Yes,” says the Mayor, “ doubtless it is.” “ Well then,” said Sir William, “ get up and try, for it is provided for you.” “ I hope, Sir,” said the Mayor, “ you are not in earnest ?” “ By my troth,” says the Provost, “ there is no remedy, for you have been a busy rebel ;” and so, without delay or liberty to make his defence, the poor Mayor was executed. Near that place also lived a miller, who had been very active in the rebellion, and, fearing the Provost’s coming, told a stout young fellow, his servant, that he had occasion to go from home, and therefore willed him, if any gentleman should come a fishing in his absence, and inquire for him, “ He should tell them himself was the miller, and ready to serve them.” The Provost not long after came, and, asking for the miller, out came the
servant,

servant, saying, "Sir, I am the miller;" upon which the Provost commanded his servants to seize him, "and hang him upon the next tree." The poor fellow hearing this, cried out, "I am not the miller, but the miller's servant." "Nay, friend," says the Provost, "I will take thee at thy word. If thou art the miller, thou art a busy knave and a rebel, and deservest to be hanged. If thou art not the miller, thou art a false lying knave, and canst not do thy master better service than to hang for him;" and so, without more ado, he was executed.

A curious Description and Explanation of the DEATH WATCH, so commonly listened to with such dread.

AMONG the many natural causes that operate on weak minds, nothing is more common than what is generally called a death watch; and is vulgarly believed wherever it is heard, that some of the family must die in a short time after, which is a ridiculous fancy, crept into vulgar heads, and employed to terrify and affright people, as a monitor of approaching death; and, therefore, to prevent such causeless fears, I shall take this opportunity to undeceive the world, by showing what it is, and that no such thing is intended by it. It has obtained the name of a death watch, by making a little clinking noise, like a watch; which giving some disturbance to a gentleman in his chamber, who was not to be affrighted with vulgar errors, it tempted him to a diligent search after the true cause of this noise, which he pleased to take in his own words, "I have been," says he, "some time since accompanied with this little noise. One evening above the rest I sat down by a table from whence the noise proceeded, and laid my watch upon the same, and perceived, to my admiration, that the sound made by this invisible automaton was louder than that of the artificial machine. Its vibrations would

would fall as regular, but withal quicker, which, upon a strict inquiry, was found to be nothing but a little beetle or spider in the wood of the box. Sometimes they are found in the plastering of a wall, and at other times in a rotten post, or in some old chest or trunk, and the noise is made by beating its head on the subject that it finds fit for sound." The little animal that I found in August, 1695, says Mr. Benjamin Allen, was about two lines and a half long, calling a line the eighth part of an inch; the colour was a dark brown, with spots, some lighter, irregularly placed, which could not easily be rubbed off, which the gentleman above named observed, with its whole composure and shape, by a microscope, and sent the whole relation of it to the publisher of the *Philosophical Transactions* of the Royal Society. Some people, governed by common reports, have fancied this *petit animal* a spirit, sent to admonish them of their deaths; and, to uphold the fancy, tell you of other strange monitors altogether as ridiculous; for, though I do not deny but that, in some particular cases, God Almighty may employ unusual methods to warn us of our approaching ends, yet ordinarily such common and unaccountable talk is nonsense, and depends more upon the fancy, kept up by a delight in telling strange things than any thing else. It is all one to a good man, whether he has a summons or not, for he is always ready either with or without it.



TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY'S SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

Reading a very remarkable trial that took place in the King's Bench, page 247, of your second volume, respecting Mr. Robert Booty, at Stromboli, though so very singular, is not the only occurrence that happened at that place. I here send you a well-authenticated history of a circumstance, respecting a Mr. Gresham, a Merchant, of London, who

touched at Stromboli, in his passage from Palermo, this being so nearly connected with your former account, I make no doubt will find an early insertion, and remain,

Sir,

Your constant reader,

St. James's Street,

W. R.

June 8, 1804.

MR. GRESHAM, an eminent merchant in London, being homeward bound from Palermo in Sicily, where at that time lived the rich Antonio, who had two kingdoms in Spain mortgaged to him at one time by his Catholic Majesty, the wind being against them, the ship in which Mr. Gresham sailed came to an anchor to leeward of Stromboli, one of the Lipari Islands in the Tyrrhenian Sea, on the north of Sicily, where is a mountain that casts forth flames of sulphur in some places of it continually. About noon, the mountain generally ceasing to throw out flames, Mr. Gresham, accompanied with eight sailors, ascended it, and went as near the orifice as danger would permit them, where, among other frightful noises, they heard a loud voice pronounce the following words, "Make haste, make haste, the rich Antonio is coming;" at which, being in a great consternation, they hastened a-board, and the mountain beginning, in a horrible manner, to vomit fire, they weighed; and the wind continuing in the same quarter, made the best of their way back again to Palermo, and enquiring after Antonio, they found that he died, as near as they could calculate, at the same instant they heard the voice at Stromboli say, "he was coming." Mr. Gresham, safely arriving in England, made this surprising accident known to King Henry VIII. and the seamen being called before him, attested the truth of it by their oaths; which made such a sensible impression upon Mr. Gresham's mind, that he quickly gave over merchandizing, made a distribution of his estate, which was very considerable, among his

his relations, and to pious and generous uses, reserving only a competency for himself, and then spent the remainder of his days in the exercise of piety and devotion.



EXTRAORDINARY CLOCK AT STRASBOURG.

Coryat, the celebrated traveller, in the reign of James the First, when at Strasbourg, in Germany, was particularly surprised with the extraordinary Workmanship of the Clock that ornaments the Cathedral of that place, and has taken great care in the Description, as well as to procure a correct representation, of so singular a curiosity. Some abridged and inaccurate accounts of this Wonderful Piece of Mechanism, having been obtruded on the public, we shall deliver its true description, in the words of Coryat himself. The accompanying plate is an accurate copy, from the drawing Coryat procured to ornament his account.

THIS curious Piece of Workmanship standeth at the south side of the church, near to the door. A true figure or representation whereof, made according to—form itself, as it standeth at this day in the church, I have expressed in this place. Truly it is a fabric so extraordinary rare and artificial, that I am confidently persuaded it is the most exquisite piece of work of that kind in all Europe. I think I should not commit any great error, if I should say, in all the world. The bolder I am to affirm it, because I have heard very famous travellers (such as have seen this clock, and most of the principal things of Christendom) report the same. It was begun to be built in the year 1571, in the month of June, by a most excellent Architect and Mathematician, of the city of Strasbourg, who was then alive when I was there; his name is Conradus Dasypodius, once the ordinary professor of the Mathematics in the University of this city. A man that, for his excellent art, may very fitly be called the Archimedes of Strasbourg; and it was ended about three years after, even in the year 1574, in the same month of June, about the feast of St. John Baptist. This work

work containeth, by my estimation, about fifty foot in height, betwixt the bottom and the top. It is compassed in with three several rails, to the end to exclude all persons, that none may approach near it to disfigure any part of it, whereof the two outmost are made of timber, the third of iron, about three yards high. On the left hand of it there is a very ingenious and methodical observation for the knowing of the eclipses of the sun and moon, for thirty-two years. At the top whereof is written, in fair Roman letters :

*Typi Eclipsium
Solis et Lunæ,
Ad Annos XXXII.*

On the same hand ascendeth a very fair architectonical machine, made of wainscot, with great curiosity, the sides being adorned with pretty little pillars of marble, of divers colours, in which are three degrees, whereof each containeth a fair statue of carved wainscot: the first, the statue of Urania, one of the nine Muses, about which her name is written in gold letters; and, by the sides, these two words, in the like golden letters, Arithmetica and Geometria. The second, the picture of a certain King, with a regal sceptre in his hand. But what King it is, I know not: above him is written Daniel, 2 chap. The last is the picture of Nicholaus Copernicus, that rare Astronomer, under whom is written, in fair Roman letters: *Nicholai Copernici vera effigies ex ipsius Autographo depicta.*

At the very top of this row, or series of work, is erected a most excellent effigie of a cock, which doth, passing curiosity, represent the living shape of that vocal creature; and it croweth at certain hours, yielding as shrill and loud a voice as a natural cock. Yea, and such a kind of sound (which maketh it more admirable) as

counterfeiteth very near the true voice of that bird ; the hours of which are eleven of the clock in the morning, and three in the afternoon. It was my chance to hear him at the third hour in the afternoon, whereat I wondered as much as I should have done, if I had seen that famous wooden pigeon of *Architas Tarentinus*, the Philosopher, (so much celebrated by the ancient historians,) fly in the air. On the right hand also of this goodly Architect, there is another row of building, correspondent to the foresaid in height, but differing from it in form.—For the principal part thereof consisteth of a pair of winding stairs, made of free stone, and most delicately composed. I could not perceive for what use they serve, so that I conjecture they are made especially for ornament. Again, in the middle work, betwixt these two notable rows that I have now described, is erected that incomparable fabrick wherein the clock standeth. At the lower end whereof, just about the middle, I observed the greatest astronomical globe that ever I saw, which is supported with an artificial pelican, wounding his breast with his beak ; wherewith they typically represent Christ, who was wounded for the salvation and redemption of the world ; and about the midst, goeth a compass of brass, which is sustained with very elegant little turned pillars. Opposite unto which is a very large sphere, beautified with many cunning conveyances and witty inventions. Directly above that standeth another orb, which, with a needle, (this is a mathematical term, signifying a certain instrument about a clock,) pointeth at four hours only, that are figured at the four corners, thus : 1. 2. 3. 4. each figure at a several corner. At the sides of the orb, two angels are represented, whereof the one holdeth a mace in his hand, with which he striketh a brasen serpent every hour ; and hard by the same standeth a death's head, finely resembled : the other,

an hour-glass, which he moveth likewise hourly. Notable objects tending to mortification. Both the lower ends of this middle engine are very excellently graced with the portraiture of two huge lions, carved in marble. This part of the third fabrick, wherein standeth the clock, is illustrated with many notable sentences of the Holy Scripture, written in Latin. As *In principio crevit Deus calumet terram.* Gene. 1. cap. *Omnis caro fenum,* Pet. 1. cap. 1. *Peccati stipendium mors est,* Rom. 6. *Dei donum vita eternaper Christum.* Rom. 6. *Ascendisti in altum, cepisti captiuitatem.* Psal. 68. Again, under the same, are written these sentences, in a lower degree: *Ecce ego creo celos novos. et terram novam.* Esaiæ 65. *Ex pergriscimini et latamini qui habitatis in pulvere.* Esa. 26. *Venite benedicti patris mei, possidete regnum vobis paratum.* *Discedite a me maledicti in ignem ætænum.* Math. 25. Above these sentences divers goodly arms are advanced, and beautified with fair escutchens. Under the same many curious pictures are drawn, which present only histories of the Bible. Again, above that orb which I have already mentioned, there is erected another orb, or sphere, wherein are figured the hours distinguishing time, and a great company of Mathematical conceits, which do decypher some of the most abstruse and secret mysteries of the noble science of Astronomy. Likewise, another orb standeth above this that I last speak of, within the which is expressed the figure of an half moon, and many glittering stars, set forth most gloriously in gold; and again, without are formed four half moons, and two full moons. Above the higher part of this orb this impress is written: *Qua est tam illustris, similes auroræ pulera ut Luna, pura ut Sol.* At the sides of it, beneath this poesie, is written, which is thus distributed:—*Dominus lux mea,* on the left hand; and, on the right hand, *Quem timebo?* Also, above the same orb,

I observed another exquisite device, even seven little pretty bells of brass, (as I conceived it) standing together in one rank, and another little bell, severally by itself, above the rest. Within the same is contrived a certain vacant, or hollow place, wherein stand certain artificial men, so ingeniously made that I have not seen the like. These do come forth at every quarter of an hour, with a very delightful and pleasant grace, holding small hammers in their hands, wherewith they strike these foresaid bells, every one in order, *alternis vicibus*, and supply each other with a pretty diligence and decorum, in this quarterly function. Under the place where these two men do strike those foresaid bells, these two sacred emblems are written: *Ecclesia Christi exulans*: and, *Serpens Antiquus Antichristus*. The highest top of this fabrick is framed with such surpassing curiosity, that it yieldeth a wonderful ornament to the whole engine, having many excellent little portraitures and fine devices contrived therein, of free stone, and garnished with borders and works of singular art. Moreover, the corners of this middle work are decked with very beautiful little pillars, of ash-coloured marble, whercof there stand two in a place; those above square, those beneath round. Thus have I, something superficially, described unto thee this famous Clock of Strasbourg, being the Phoenix of all the Clocks of Christendom. For it doth as far excel all other Clocks that ever I saw before, as of the Piazza of *St. Mark's*, in Venice, which I have already mentioned, that of Middleborough, in Zeland, which I after saw, and all others, generally as far (I say) as a fair young lady, of the age of eighteen years, that hath been very elegantly brought up in the trimming of her beauty, doth a homely and coarse trull of the country, or a rich orient pearl, a mean piece of amber.

A curious

A curious Receipt and Expenditure on the Exhibition of a Play taken from an old Churchwarden's Book belonging to the Parish of Basingborne, Cambridgeshire.

MEMORANDUM. Received at the Play held on St. Margarets-day A. D. MDXI in Basingborn of the holy Martyr St. George.

Received of the Township of Royston 12s. Tharfield 6s. 8d. Melton 5s. 4d. Lillington 10s. 6d. Whaddon 4s. 4d. Steeplemenden 4s. Barly 4s. 1d. Ashwell 4s. Abingdon 3s. 4d. Orwell 3s. Wendy 2s. 9d. Wimpole 2s. 7d. Meldreth 2s. 4d. Arrington 2s. 4d. Shepreth 2s. 4d. Kelsey 2s. 5d. Willington 1s. 10d. Fulmer 1s. 8d. Gilden Morden 1s. Tadlow 1s. Croydon 1s. 1d. Hattey 10d. Wratingworth 9d. Hastingfield 9d. Barkney 8d. Foxten 4d. Kneesworth 6d.

Item received of the Town of Basingborn on the Monday and Friday after the play together with other comers on the Monday 14s. 5d.

Item received on the Wednesday after the play with a pot of ale at Kneesworth all costs deducted 1s. 7d.

Expences of the said play

First paid to the Garnement Man for Garnements and Propyrts and playbooks 20s.

To a Mynstrel and three Waits of Cambridge for the Wednesday, Saturday and Monday Two of them the first day and Three the other days 5s. 11d.

Item in expences on the Players, when the Play was shewed, in bread and ale and for other Vittails at Royston for those Players 3s. 2d.

Item in expences on the Playday for the bodies of six Sheep 22d. each 9s. 2d.

Item for three Calves and half a Lamb 8s. 2d.

Item paid five days board of one Pyke Propyrte making for himself and his servant one day and for his horses pasture six days 1s. 4d.

Item

- Item paid to Turners of Spits and for Salt 9d.
- Item for four Chickens for the Gentlemen 4d.
- Item for fish and bread and setting up the Stages 4d.
- Item to John Becher for painting of three Fanchons and four Tormentors.
- Item to Giles Ashwell for easement of his Croft to play in 1s.
- Item to John Hobarde Brotherhood Priest for the playbook 2s. 8d.

ANCIENT SPORTS,

AND PASTIMES OF THE LONDONERS,

By William Stephanides, or Fitzstephen, a Monk of Canterbury, born in London in the Reign of King Stephen; wrote this Account in the Reign of Henry the Second, and died Anno 1191, in the Reign of Richard the First.

AT the Shrovetide in every year, the boys of each school in the Metropolis bring fighting-cocks to their masters, and the whole of the forenoon is spent in the school, to see these cocks fight together. After dinner the youth of the city go to play at ball in the fields; every boy being provided with a separate ball, the practisers also of the trades are each in possession of a ball, with which they join in the sport, the ancients sort come, on this occasion, on horseback, to witness the agility of their children and friends.

By this account the barbarous custom of killing the cocks, by throwing sticks at them, while tied to a stake, was not known or practised in the time of this writer, as he would certainly have noticed it.

SPORTS IN LENT.

EVERY Sunday in Lent, after dinner, a company of young men ride into the fields on horses which are set for

for war, and principal runners: every one among them is taught to run the rounds with his horse. The citizen's sons issue out through the gates by troops, furnished with lances and warlike shields: the younger sort have their pikes not headed with iron, where they make a representation of battle, and exercise a skirmish. There resort to this exercise many courtiers, when the King lies near the city, and young striplings out of the family's of Barons and great persons, which have not yet attained the warlike girdle, to train and skirmish.

Hope of victory inflames every one: the neighing and fierce horses bestir their joints, and chew their bridles, and cannot endure to stand still: at last they begin their race, and then the young men divide their troops; some labour to out-strip their leaders, and cannot reach them; others fling down their fellows, and get beyond them.

SEA FIGHTS.

IN Easter holidays they counterfeit a sea fight: a pole is set up in the middle of the river, with a target well fastened thereon, and a young man stands upright in a boat, which goes swiftly by help of the oars and tide, who with his spear hits the target in his passage, with which blow, if he break the spear, and continues upright, he gets the prize, if any is contended for: but if his spear continues unbroken, he seldom fails of being precipitated into the river, to the no small entertainment of the numerous spectators assembled on the occasion. And in order to prevent any accident, if he is not an expert swimmer, two vessels, with many young men on board, are in readiness to take him up, the moment he makes his appearance from the aquatic plunge.

SUMMER 31

UPON the hollidays
in leaping, shooting,

throwing of Javelins fitted with loops for the purpose, which they strive to fling beyond the mark: they also use bucklers, like fighting men. The robust exercises besides, consist in baiting and hunting with dogs, bulls, boars, and bears.

Many citizens take delight in birds, as sparrow-hawks, gos-hawks, and such like; and in dogs to hunt in the woody ground, to which end they have authority to hunt or course in Middlesex, Hertfordshire, all the Chilterns, and in Kent, as far as Gray-Water.

SPORTS ON THE ICE.

WHEN the great moor, which washes Moorfields, at the north wall of the city, is frozen over, great companies of young men go to sport upon the ice; then taking a run, and setting their feet at a distance, and placing their bodies sideways, they slide a great way. Others take heaps of ice, as if they were great mill-stones, and make seats; many, going before, drawing the party who are seated, holding one another by the hand; in going so fast, some slipping with their feet, all fall down together. Some are better practised to the ice, and bind to their shoes, bones, as the legs of some beasts, and hold stakes in their hands, headed with sharp iron, which sometimes they strike against the ice; and these men go on with speed, as doth a bird in the air, or darts shot from some warlike engine. Sometimes two men set themselves at a distance, and run one against another, as it were at a tilt, with these two stakes, wherewith one or both parties are thrown down, not without some hurt to their bodies; and after their fall, by reason of the violent motion, are carried a great distance from one another; and wheresoever the ice touches their heads, it rubs off the skin, and lays it bare; nor is it unusual to have a leg or an arm broken in the frolic. But our youth, greedy of honour and desirous of victory, do thus exercise

cise themselves in counterfeit battles, that they may bear the brunt more strongly, when they come to it in earnest.

Lucan, speaking of Cæsar's attempt on the Trinobantes, or Britons, says,

He was afraid, and fail'd by Britons' hand,
That first presumed to invade their land.

Extraordinary case of JONATHAN BRADFORD, who was executed at Oxford, for the Murder of CRISTOPHER HAYES, Esq. in the year 1736.

JONATHAN BRADFORD kept an inn in Oxfordshire, on the London road to Oxford; he bore an unexceptionable character. Mr. Hayes, a gentleman of fortune, being on his way to Oxford, on a visit to a relation, put up at Bradford's; he there joined company with two gentlemen, with whom he supped, and in conversation unguardedly mentioned that he had then about him a large sum of money. In due time they retired to their respective chambers; the gentlemen to a two-bedded room, leaving, as is customary with many, a candle burning in the chimney corner. Some hours after they were in bed, one of the gentlemen being awake, thought he heard a deep groan in the adjoining chamber; and this being repeated, he softly awaked his friend. They listened together, and the groans increasing as of one dying, they both instantly arose, and proceeded silently to the door of the next chamber, from whence they heard the groans; and the door being ajar, saw a light in the room; they entered, but it is impossible to paint their consternation, on perceiving a person weltering in his blood in the bed, and a man standing over him, with a dark lanthorn in one hand and a knife in the other. The man seemed as petrified as themselves, but his terror

carried with it all the terror of guilt! The gentlemen soon discovered the person was the stranger with whom they had that night supped, and that the man who was standing over him was their host. They seized Bradford directly, disarmed him of his knife, and charged him with being the murderer: he assumed by this time the air of innocence, positively denied the crime, and asserted that he came there with the same humane intentions as themselves; for that, hearing a noise, which was succeeded by a groaning, he got out of bed, struck a light, armed himself with a knife for his defence, and was but that minute entered the room before them.

These assertions were of little avail, he was kept in close custody till the morning, and then taken before a neighbouring justice of the peace. Bradford still denied the murder, but nevertheless, with such an apparent indication of guilt, that the justice hesitated not to make use of this extraordinary expression, on writing out his mittimus; "Mr. Bradford, either you or myself committed this murder."

This extraordinary affair was the conversation of the whole county; Bradford was tried and condemned over and over again, in every company. In the midst of all this predetermination came on the assizes at Oxford; Bradford was brought to trial, he pleaded not guilty. Nothing could be more strong than the evidence of the two gentlemen; they testified to the finding Mr. Hayes murdered in his bed; Bradford at the side of the Body with a light and a knife; that knife and the hand which held it bloody; that on their entering the room he betrayed all the signs of a guilty man, and that a few moments preceding, they had heard the groans of the deceased.

Bradford's defence on his trial was the same as before the gentlemen: he had heard a noise; he suspected some villainy transacting; he struck a light; he snatched
a knife

a knife (the only weapon near him) to defend himself; and the terrors he discovered, were merely the terrors of humanity, the natural effects of innocence as well as guilt, on beholding such a horrid scene!

This defence, however, could be considered but as weak, contrasted with the several powerful circumstances against him. Never was circumstantial evidence more strong! There was little need left of comment, from the judge in summing up the evidence! No room appeared for extenuation! And the jury brought in the prisoner Guilty, even without going out of the box.

Bradford was executed shortly after, still declaring he was not the murderer, nor privy to the murder of Mr. Hayes; but he died disbelieved by all.

Yet were those assertions not untrue! The murder was actually committed by Mr. Hayes's footman; who, immediately on stabbing his master, rifled his breeches of his money, gold watch and snuff-box, and escaped to his own room; which could have been, from the after circumstances, scarcely two seconds before Bradford's entering the unfortunate gentleman's chamber. The world owes this knowledge to a remorse of conscience in the footman (eighteen months after the execution of Bradford) on a bed of sickness; it was a death-bed repentance, and by that death the law lost its victim!

It is much to be wished, that this account could close here; but it cannot! Bradford, though innocent, and not privy to the murder, was, nevertheless, the murderer in design. He had heard, as well as the footman, what Mr. Hayes had declared at supper, as to his having a large sum of money about him, and he went to the chamber with the same diabolical intentions as the servant. He was struck with amazement!—he could not believe his senses!—and in turning back the bed-clothes, to assure himself of the fact, he, in his agitation, dropped

his knife on the bleeding body, by which both his hand and the knife became bloody. These circumstances Bradford acknowledged to the clergyman who attended him after his sentence.

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TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY'S SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

Having met with an *original* account of a melancholy event in Berkshire, I have transcribed it for your Museum, nothing being omitted but a few redundant words. It was printed by John Harding, at the Bible and Anchor, Newport-Street, near Leicester-Fields, 1680. I suppose *shoot* and *shot* are provincial Berkshire terms.

Yours, &c.

Bristol, June 18th, 1804.

ISAAC JAMES.

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ON Thursday, Sept. 2d, 1680, John Sawyer, a farmer, with his son Richard, a youth of 13 years of age, went with four horses half a mile, to a field in the parish of Cookham, called Ham Field, to plough, about ten in the forenoon, it being then fair. About eleven the sky began to lour, the clouds grew thick, and soon it lightened and thundered, and some showers of rain fell. It thundered several times very loud, sharp, and shrill, to the amazement of several persons. Two other ploughs were at work in the same field; their cattle being affrighted and unruly, they shoot off and go home, and leave John Sawyer in the field. About one the tempest began to give off; four hours after a neighbouring labourer, one Francis Dell, passing from the wood side down to Cookham, sees Sawyer, with his son Richard, and the four horses all dead on the ground. Knowing the man, he came into Cookham, and acquaints the inhabitants; immediately the major part of the towns folks flocked up into the fields to see this sad spectacle, and with the rest, the wife of the said John Sawyer; where, to her exceeding grief, she saw her husband, son, and four horses dead. No
impression

impression or bruise on the man, but the boy's clothes were most part of them rent from his body, and his hat torn into two or three pieces; one shoe, all the upper leather torn from the sole and heel; and his whip broke into two or three pieces; his shirt beaten to lint, and strewed on the horse he was supposed to ride, except one narrow slip from his neck to the fore-part, remaining from his neck downward before. He was observed to be naked, and from the neck down his back burnt, or singed, as is supposed with the lightening, likewise scorched or singed on the belly; some part of his hair singed, and the eye brows. The horse he was supposed to ride was singed from the neck to the flank. It was judged by those ploughmen that shot out and came home safe, that it might be the last clap of thunder and lightening that afforded that fatal stroke. John Sawyer and his son had shot out from plough and were about six poles from it, supposed to be riding homeward, each having his left leg under the near side of the horse he was supposed to ride. The horses falling all one way, it is judged they were struck immediately dead in their walk, none of them having so much as one leg stretched out, or any reason to conclude they strove for life. Sawyer was a man of good repute among his neighbours, that lived soberly and honestly. On Saturday the 4th, the Coroner came and called a jury for enquiry, and they gave their verdict that it was the immediate providence of Almighty God; and so the Coroner gave order for the burial of the man and his son, which the same evening was performed.

We whose names are here under written, do testify the truth of this relation :

Jo. Whitfield, Esq. Justice of Quorum for Berkshire,

Francis Crawley, Vic. de Cookham,

Robert Bennet,

John Rege,

John Chery, of Maidenhead, Warden of the T

} Churchwardens of Cookham,

Thomas Bird, apprentice at Mr. King's, a fishmonger in Newgate Market, whose father liveth at Cookham, was likewise at Cookham when this sad accident happened, and saw the man, boy, and horses in the field. *John Harding*, being very near the place the next day.

The same day at Norwich, and for six miles round, happened a terrible thunder and lightening; where eight persons that were at harvest work, retiring into a church porch, a great clap of thunder and lightening came and struck them all dead.



EXTRAORDINARY PRESERVATION.

THE Terrace of Berne, in Switzerland, is a promenade close to the Cathedral, where the shade of venerable chesnut-trees, affords a refreshing coolness, even on the hottest day in summer. From this terrace, which is between six and seven hundred feet high, and is the work of human industry, is seen a range of lofty mountains, whose summits are buried beneath everlasting snows, and, when illumined by the sun, appear like beautiful, delicate clouds. Underneath runs the river Aar, which precipitates itself with great noise from a considerable height. In the wall surrounding this promenade, is the following inscription :

“ In honour of the Almighty and Miraculous Providence of God, and as a memorial for posterity, this stone was erected on this spot, from which Mr. Theobald Wenzapfli, when a student, fell on the 25th of May, 1653; after which accident he lived 30 years as Minister of Kerzersee, and died in an advanced age on the 25th of November, 1694.”

However, extraordinary it may appear, that a man precipitated from such a height should remain alive, yet the

the circumstance, according to the inhabitants of Berne has never been called in question. The student, it is said, wore a wide gown, which being inflated by the air, acted like a parachute, so that he fell quite gently to the ground.

MOVEMENT OF THE EARTH.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM,

SIR,

An occurrence perhaps not less extraordinary than that recorded in your last Number (page 279) is related by Sir Richard Baker, in speaking of the wonderful events in Queen Elizabeth's reign, that writer gives the following account of Manley-Hill.

“IN her 13th year, a prodigious earthquake happened in the east part of Herefordshire, in a little town called Kynaston. On the 17th of February, at six o'clock in the evening, the earth began to open, and an hill, with a rock under it, making first a great bellowing noise, lifted itself up, and began to travel, bearing with it the trees that grew upon it, the sheepfolds and flocks; sheep abiding there at the same time. In the place from whence it first moved, it left a chasm 40 feet broad, and fourscore ells long. The whole field was about 2 acres only. Passing along, it overthrew a chapel standing in the way; removed a yew-tree, planted in the church-yard, from the west to the east: with the same force it thrust before it highways, hedges, and trees; made tilled land into pasture; and again turned pasture into tillage. Having walked in this manner from Saturday evening till Monday noon, it then stood still.”

This was probably one of those slips of land which are very common in hilly countries after a wet season, as happened lately to Beechen-cliff, near the Old Bridge at Bath.

Bath.—The yew-tree in Kynaston church-yard is still to be seen; and the bell of the chapel was dug up a few years since.

Your's &c.

A. C.

Account of a Man born without Arms or Legs, who lately died at Paris, aged sixty-two years.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM,

SIR,

If the following particulars relative to a remarkable instance of *lunus nature* in the human species, should be considered worthy of a place in your amusing Miscellany, they may, perhaps, possess some interest for those of your readers who are fond of studying the varieties of figure and disposition among mankind.

I am, your's, &c.

J. C. M.

MARC CATOZZE, called the *Little Dwarf*, was born at Venice, in the year 1741, of tall and robust parents. He had several brothers, all of whom were tall and well made; his body was not deformed, and appeared to belong to a man of five feet six inches; he had neither arms nor legs, the pectoral members consisted of a very prominent shoulder, and a perfect hand; the lower part of the body was very flat, terminating in a mis-shapen foot, but complete in all its parts.

This man was well known; he had spent the greatest part of his life in traversing almost all the states of Europe exhibiting himself to the public curiosity. He attracted the multitude, not only by the singularity of his form, but likewise by the astonishing strength of his jaws, and the dexterity with which he threw up into the air, sticks and other things with one of his hands, and caught them with the other.

As he could scarcely reach his mouth with the ends of his

fingers, his greatest difficulty would have been to feed himself without assistance, if nature had not furnished him with the extraordinary power of protruding, and at the same time lowering his under jaw, as was discovered in dissecting his body after his death. •

Though Catozze could walk and stand upright on his feet, yet he would have experienced great difficulty in reaching objects situated above, or at a certain distance from his hands. He had therefore contrived to lengthen them, as it were, by a very simple instrument which was to him of the utmost utility. This was a hollow piece of elder, about three feet in length, through which passed a cylindrical iron rod, fixed so as to slide up and down, and terminating in a very sharp hook. If he wished to lay hold of an object at some distance from his hand; for instance, to button his clothes, to take up or set down his metal goblet; to pull the clothes upon him in bed, he took his tube (which he always kept near him) in one hand and pushed it between his fingers, till he brought the hooked end towards the hand that was at liberty; then seizing the object that he wanted with the hook, he drew it towards him, turning it any way he pleased, without letting go the stick, but drawing back the hooked piece of iron, as into a sheath. The habit of using this instrument had rendered him so dexterous, that, by means of it he has frequently been seen to take up a piece of money from a table, or from the ground.

It will scarcely be credited, that a man of this description should have met with several women whose affections he had the art to gain; at least, he frequently boasted to that effect.

In his youth, Catozze travelled on horseback; for this purpose, he had procured a particular kind of saddle, and usually appeared in public, holding the reins, beating a drum, performing his exercise with a musket, writ-

ing, winding up his watch, cutting his victuals, &c. He possessed a very robust constitution; he was gay, and even merry, and took a pleasure in relating his travels and adventures; he spoke very well, and wrote English, German, French, and Italian. The vivacity of his disposition rendered his conversation very interesting; but he was addicted to wine and spiritous liquors, and was fond of good living. He was very obstinate, had much self-love, and a ridiculous haughtiness. When he went abroad for instance, he was drawn in a small vehicle, by a man whom he called his horse, and to whom he gave a few half-pence; but he never suffered this man, whom he considered as his servant, to eat with him.

The lower extremities, as has been already observed; consisted only of his feet; yet he could use them for walking in an upright position. More than once he has been seen walking in the court of his abode, and even to go nearly three quarters of a mile on foot. In order to rest himself, he turned out his toes as far as he could; supported himself before on his stick, and behind against any place that he happened to be near; and thus remained whole hours conversing with strangers who called to see him.

He expired at the age of 62, of an inflammation of the bowels; having for two years previous to his death, complained of violent pains of the cholic.



REMARKABLE INSTANCE OF INTREPIDITY.

ON the celebration of the anniversary of his Majesty's birth at Jersey, June 4th, 1804, the public joy experienced a sudden interruption by a dreadful accident, which, but for the signal intervention of Providence, would have proved the destruction of the whole town. At noon, the forts on the island, and the artillery in the new fort on the large hill,

hill, fired a Royal Salute, by order of the Governor. After the ceremony, a corporal of the Invalid Company of Artillery received the matches, and locked them in the magazine at the top of the hill, which is bomb-proof; it contained 209 barrels of powder, a quantity of loaded bombs, caissons full of cartridges, and other combustibles. About six in the evening the sentries observed a smoke issuing from an air-hole at the end of the magazine, and immediately ran from the fort to give the alarm of fire, when Mr. P. Lys, the Signal Officer on the hill, also observing the smoke, came towards it, and meeting two brothers, named Touzel, who were employed by him as carpenters, endeavoured to prevail on them to break open the door. One of them, however, refused, and went in search of the keys; but the other, named Edward, having requested a soldier, named Pontsney, to assist him, he acquiesced, and they agreed to sacrifice their lives. Touzel then proceeded to break open the door with an axe and a wooden bat, when, finding the magazine on fire, he rushed into the flames, and threw out heaps of burning matches. At length, by the intrepidity of this man in particular, the fire was subdued before the soldiers or inhabitants could reach the top of the hill. Captain Leith, and the soldiers of the 31st regiment, then proceeded to inspect and empty the magazine, lest any sparks should remain undiscovered, when, wonderful to relate, they found that two wooden caissons filled with ammunition had been attacked by the fire, and that one, containing powder-horns, cartridges, &c. was nearly half burnt through: an open barrel of powder was also situated under some of the beams which were on fire, and supported the roof!—The constable of the town summoned the inhabitants to meet, for the purpose of testifying their gratitude towards the two brave men whose intrepidity preserved them from destruction.

PATRICK O'BRIEN,

*The celebrated IRISH GIANT, with a striking likeness,
taken from Life.*

MR O'BRIEN is one of those extraordinary phenomena that, perhaps once in a century appear to the wonder and astonishment of mankind. In an accurate survey of this singular character, our surprize is accompanied with pity and regret, as every movement appears to be attended with trouble and a degree of pain. In the action of rising to salute or surprise his visitors, he places both his hands on the small of his back, and bowing his body forward, rises with considerable difficulty from his seat, generally consisting of a common sized table, on which is placed the cushion of a carriage. Mr. O'Brien has exhibited himself in London at different periods during the last eighteen years; and for four or five successive *Bartholomew Fairs*, he was to be seen in Smithfield. His declining, however, this mode of exhibition, gave rise to the report of his death, and it was not until his appearance was announced in the Hay-Market, that the rumour was contradicted. Many could not, even then, be satisfied that he was the same person they had formerly seen, before they paid him a visit for the purpose of indulging their curiosity. About fifteen years since, during the time he was to be seen at Bartholomew Fair, he used frequently to walk about the streets, for the sake of air and exercise, at two or three o'clock in the morning. In one of these nocturnal excursions it was my chance to overtake him; when he was accompanied by two genteel looking men of the common size; on whose shoulders he supported himself in the same manner we sometimes see a well grown man resting his hands on the shoulders of children of eight or ten years of age. Though I had frequently seen him in a room, I was so much struck with his appearance and manner

ner in the street, that I observed him with much attention. Walking up Holborn he appeared to be greatly fatigued; and rather might be said to shuffle along than walk; as he never moved either of his feet from the stones. In proceeding along the more level pavement, his body appeared more erect, and his head would have struck against many of the lamps, if he had not avoided them. In this manner he pursued his walk as far as Staples Inn, when he turned back in his way to Smithfield (as I suppose) for I followed him no farther than the corner of Hatton Garden.

Mr. O'Brien, is at this time (1804) in his 38th year, is eight feet seven inches in height, and proportionably lusty; his hand, from the commencement of the palm to the end of the middle finger, measures twelve inches; and his face, from the chin to the top of his forehead precisely the same, so that his hand exactly covers his face (this by artists is deemed just proportion); his thumb is about the size of a moderate man's wrist; and his shoe is seventeen inches long. Upon the whole, Mr. O'Brien, though possessing every claim to our attention, on account of his extraordinary magnitude, is not entitled to the denomination of a well made man. His limbs, it is true, are not strikingly disproportioned; but his figure wants that general symmetry which more commonly distinguishes a man of ordinary dimensions.

It is an unhappiness too general among such as make a practice of exposing their persons to public view, that all the rest of mankind are alike indifferent to them. Hence neither connection nor friendship can possibly be established with such men; every endeavour to obtain information that might be proper to elucidate the history of their lives, is regarded with jealousy, as they imagine that it proceeds from impertinent or mischievous curiosity.

Among

Among those with whom Mr. O'Brien is most familiar, he sometimes relates the following anecdote: travelling in a carriage, peculiarly adapted to his use, by sinking the foundation some feet, so as to hold his legs conveniently, he was stopped by a highwayman; putting his head forward to observe the cause that impeded his progress, the highwayman was struck with such a panic that he clapped spurs to his horse and made a precipitate retreat.

It has been asserted, with what degree of truth I cannot say, that Mr. O'Brien is passionately fond of cards, and that he eagerly embraces every opportunity that offers of engaging in that amusement, but that he cannot bear to lose with patience; not from a principle of parsimony, but from the disgrace (as he conceives it) of being beat.

The bill which announced his return to London this year (1804) runs thus: *Just arrived in Town, and to be seen in a commodious room, at No. 11, Haymarket, nearly opposite the Opera House, the celebrated Irish Giant, Mr. O'Brien, of the Kingdom of Ireland, indisputably the tallest man ever shown; is a lineal descendant of the old and puissant King Brien Boreau, and has, in person and appearance, all the similitudes of that great and grand potentate. It is remarkable of this family, that however various the revolutions in point of fortune or alliance, the lineal descendants thereof, have been favoured by Providence with the original size and stature which have been so peculiar to their family.—The gentleman alluded to measures near Nine Feet High. Admittance One Shilling.*

Mr. O'Brien, when not in London, resides at a house in Essex, formerly the mansion of a noble family, but now converted into an inn. This place he has very properly pitched upon for his residence; being

built in the ancient style, with very lofty door-ways and apartments, it is particularly calculated for the reception of one who may justly be denominated the *greatest man* in the United Kingdom. The house is, at present, kept by a widow, for whom Mr. O'Brien is said to perform all transactions relative to the purchase or disposal of her horses, &c.

O'Brien and Byrne, are names peculiar to gigantic persons of the Irish Nation. In the year 1780, a Mr. Byrne was to be seen at Charing-Cross, where he died; and was buried in St. Martin's Church yard. He was within two inches of eight feet at his death; and it was thought that the continuance of his growth proved fatal to him, as he had not attained the 20th year of his age when he died.—The following particulars have recently been received from Ireland, relative to a man equally singular with the Great O'Brien, though we are not made acquainted with his height. I should rather imagine that he more resembles Bright, our fat man of Essex, than his countryman O'Brien, from the circumstance of his being suffocated through fat.

“The remains of the largest person ever known in Ireland, at least since the days of Phil Macoul, the famous Irish Giant, were lately interred in the church-yard of Roseunallis, in the Queen's County. The coffin, with its contents, weighed 52 stone, which amounts exactly to six hundred. It was borne on a very long bier, by thirty strong men, who were relieved at intervals. The name of this extraordinary person was Roger Byrne. He lived at or near Borros, in Ossory, and is reported to have died of no other disease but a suffocation, occasioned by an extremity of fat, that stopped the play of the lungs, and put a period to his life, in the 54th year of his age. He was 18 stone heavier than the noted Bright, of Maldon, whose waistcoat inclosed seven large men. Byrne was a married

married man, and it is remarkable his widow is a very small woman, by whom he has left four boys, the eldest not seven years old."

It was the custom with many of our Kings to keep gigantic porters, among whom the following are particularly worthy of notice. Walter Parsons, born in the county of Stafford, was porter to King James I. and might be truly called one of the wonders of his age, for he was not only two yards and a half, wanting but two inches high, but had a due symmetry and proportion in all parts of his body; his strength was equal to his height, courage to his strength, and temper to his courage; he would neither boast nor sneak to any man, but would often take two of the tallest yeomen of the guard under his arms at once, and order them as he pleased.

William Evans, a native of Monmouthshire, in Wales, was porter to King Charles I. immediately after Walter Parsons, and may be called the giant of his time; for he was two yards and a half complete, exceeding Parsons two inches in height, but no way equalling him in proportion of body; for his knees knocked together, he went shuffling with his feet, and was somewhat lame; yet he once danced in an antimasque at Whitehall, and after scampering a while, he drew Jeffery Hudson, the Queen's dwarf out of his pocket, to the wonder and merriment of all the spectators.

The stature of Daniel, the lunatic porter of Oliver Cromwell, is preserved by a circle marked on the terrace at Windsor Castle, by which it appears he was considerably taller than the common race of men.

His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, retained for some time in his service as porter, a native of Scotland, commonly called Big Sam, who was nearly eight feet high, lusty and extremely well made. This man's size was in no wise inconvenient to him, he being as agile

as any man of six feet. He performed as a giant in the Romance of Cymon, at the Opera House, in the Hay-market, while the Drury-Lane company had the use of that house, till their own was rebuilt. His health declining in London he obtained permission of his Royal Highness to return to his native country, where he continued for some time in the capacity of a serjeant in the army. A report was propagated of his having been drowned in crossing some lake in Scotland, which has however been since contradicted.

Having, as far as came within my knowledge, noticed the most remarkable of the modern giants, I shall at a future period, draw up from several memorandums in my possession an account of the earlier ones.

JAMES CAULFIELD.



Wonderful effects of the immoderate use of SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS.

COULD any consideration have weight with the deluded votaries of the odious vice of excessive drinking, surely the following facts must prevail upon them to abandon that pernicious habit. If it does not undermine their constitutions by slow degrees, it may probably produce sudden death, and that attended with circumstances of horror, capable of alarming the most indifferent.

However wonderful the accounts contained in the subsequent pages may appear, they are given on such authority as must remove all doubts respecting their truth from the minds of the most incredulous. If but one victim should be rescued from the jaws of destruction, by the perusal of them, it will afford us the most sincere gratification.

At Copenhagen, in the year 1692, a woman of the lower class, who, for three years, had used spirituous

liquors to such an excess that she would take no other nourishment, having sat down one evening on a straw chair to sleep, was consumed in the night-time, so that next morning no part of her was found, but the skull and the extreme joints of her fingers; all the rest of her body being reduced to ashes.

The Countess Cornelia Bandi, who resided at the town of Cesena in Italy, aged 62, enjoyed a good state of health. One evening, having experienced a sort of drowsiness, she retired to bed, and her maid remained with her till she fell asleep. Next morning, when the girl entered to awaken her, she found nothing but the remains of her mistress in a most horrid condition. At the distance of four feet from the bed, was a heap of ashes, in which could be distinguished the legs and arms untouched. Between the legs lay the head, the brain of which, together with half of the posterior part of the cranium, and the whole chin had been consumed. Three fingers were found in the state of a coal; the rest of the body was reduced to ashes, and contained no oil; the tallow of two candles was melted on a table, but the wicks still remained, and the feet of the candlesticks were covered with a certain moisture. The bed was not damaged; the bed-clothes and coverlid were thrown on one side, as is the case when a person gets up. The furniture and tapestry were covered with a moist kind of soot of the colour of ashes, which had penetrated into the drawers and dirtied the linen. This soot, having been conveyed to a neighbouring kitchen, adhered to the walls and utensils. A piece of bread in the cup-board was covered with it, and no dog would touch it. The infectious odour had been communicated to other apartments. It is said that the Countess Bandi had been accustomed to bathe her body in camphorated spirit of wine.

PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF SPIRITUOUS LIQUORS. 5

An instance of the same kind is recorded in a letter of Mr. Wilmer, surgeon:—Mary Clues, aged 50, was much addicted to intoxication. Her propensity to this vice had increased after the death of her husband, which happened a year and a half before. For about a year, scarcely a day had passed in the course of which she did not drink at least half a pint of rum or aniseed water. Her health gradually declined, and in the beginning of February she was attacked by the jaundice, and confined to her bed. Though she was incapable of much action, and was not in a condition to work, she still continued her old habit of drinking every day, and smoking a pipe of tobacco. The bed in which she lay stood parallel to the chimney of the apartment, at the distance of about three feet. On Saturday morning the 1st. of March, she fell on the floor, and her extreme weakness having prevented her from getting up, she remained in that state till some one entered and put her to bed. The following night she wished to be left alone; a woman quitted her at half past eleven, and according to custom, shut the door and locked it. She had put in the fire two large pieces of coal, and placed a light in a candlestick on a chair at the head of the bed. At half after five in the morning a smoke was seen issuing through the window, and the door being speedily broken open, some flames which were in the room were soon extinguished. Between the bed and the chimney were found the remains of the unfortunate Clues; one leg and a thigh were still entire, but there remained nothing of the skin, the muscles and the viscera. The bones of the cranium, the breast, the spine, and the upper extremities were entirely calcined, and covered with a whitish efflorescence. The people were much surprized that the furniture had sustained so little injury. The side of the bed which was next to the chimney had suffered the most; the wood of

it was slightly burnt, but the father-bed, the clothes, and covering were safe. Mr. Wilmer entered the apartments about two hours after it had been opened, and observed that the walls and every thing in it were blackened; that it was filled with a very disagreeable vapour, but that nothing excepting the body exhibited any strong traces of fire.

The transactions of the Royal Society of London, likewise furnish an instance of human combustion equally extraordinary.—Grace Pitt, the wife of a fishmonger in the parish of St. Clement, Ipswich, aged about 60, had contracted a habit, which she continued for several years, of coming down every night from her bed-room, half-dressed, to smoke a pipe. On the night of the 9th of April, 1744, she got up from bed as usual. Her daughter who slept with her did not perceive that she was absent till next morning, when she awoke; soon after which she put on her clothes, and going down into the kitchen found her mother stretched out on the right side, with her head near the grate; the body extended on the hearth, with her legs on the floor, which was of deal, having the appearance of a log of wood, consumed by a fire without apparent flame. On beholding this spectacle, the girl ran in great haste, and poured over her mother's body some water contained in two large vessels in order to extinguish the fire; while the foetid odour and smoke which exhaled from the body almost suffocated some of the neighbours who had hastened to the girl's assistance. The trunk was, in some measure, incinerated, and all a heap of coals covered with white ashes. The head, the arms, the legs and the thighs had also participated in the burning. This woman it is said had drunk largely of spirituous liquor in consequence of her habit, so that one of her daughters had remarked that she had no fire in the

the grate, and the candle had burned entirely out in the socket of the candlestick, which was close to her. Besides, there were found, near the consumed body, the clothes of a child, and a paper screen, which had sustained no injury by the fire. The dress of this woman consisted of a cotton gown.



*An Account of that wonderful Animal the CAMELEON,
described by Sir GEORGE WHEELER.*

NEAR SMYRNA, are a great number of Camelcons, an animal which has some resemblance to a lizard, but hath its back gibbous, or crooked, like a hog, and its feet have two claws before and three behind, which are not separated from each other till near the ends. It has a long tail like a rat, and is commonly as big, but it has very little or no motion with its head. The Cameleons are in great abundance about the old walls of the Castle, where they breed and lie in holes, or upon heaps of ruins. Sir George Wheeler says, I kept two of them twenty days, during which he made the following observations: their colour was usually green, darker towards the back, and lighter towards the belly, where it inclined to a yellow, with spots that were sometimes reddish, and at others whitish; but the green often changed into a dark colour like that of earth, without any appearance of green, and the whitish spots often vanished, but sometimes turned into the same dirt colour, and at others into a dark purple. Sometimes, from being green all over, they would be spotted with black; and when they slept under a white woollen cap, they would commonly, when uncovered, be of a white or a cream colour; but they would also turn white under a red cap, for they never turned either red or blue, though they often lay under those colours; but being placed upon green, they would
become

become green, and upon the dark earth would change so as exactly to resemble it.

As our author was walking by the side of the hill near the old castle, he saw many that had changed themselves so as to resemble the colour of the speckled stone wall, and were grey with spots like moss. He found one on the top of a green bush, which, when he first observed it, was of a bright green; but it no sooner perceived that he saw it, but searching, he observed it creeping away to a hole in the rock, it being changed to a dark brown, exactly like the earth, which was then, after a shower of rain, of that colour.

The power of thus changing its colour, is given it by nature for its preservation; for it moves very slowly, lifting up its legs high, and not quick, as if it searched for hold to climb upward, which it can do very well on a tree, a bush, or wall. When it saw itself in danger of being caught, it opened its mouth, and hissed like a snake.

The eyes of the Camelcon are no less wonderful than the variation of the colours of the body: they are large in proportion to the size of its head, being generally bigger than a pea, and covered all over with a skin of the same substance with the body, the grain being in circles just to the centre, where there is an hole no bigger than a small pin's head, by which it receives light, which must make the angle of its vision very acute. The head being immoveable, it cannot immediately turn to objects; but to remedy this inconvenience, it can not only move its eyes backward and forward, upward and downward, but one forward, and the other backward, or one upward and the other downward.

The tongue is a kind of little trunk, of a gristly substance, about half an inch long, and hollow, joined to its throat by a strong membranous and fleshy substance, in

in which it is sheathed when in the mouth. It will dart this above an inch out of its mouth, smeared with a glutinous substance, to catch flies, which stick fast to it as to birdlime, and so are brought into the mouth. These flies are the ordinary known food of the Cameleon; but like other animals of a cold nature, as lizards and serpents, they will live a long time without sustenance.

Its tail is of very great use in climbing, for it will twine about any thing so fast, that if its feet slip, it will sustain and recover its whole body by it. Our author put one which he had caught into a glass, so deep that it could not reach near the brim with its fore-feet, nor could take any hold with its claws, and yet it got out, and almost escaped from him, as he afterwards saw, by standing upon its fore-feet, and raising itself up backward, till it caught hold of the brim of the glass with its tail, by the help of which it lifted out its whole body.

In Guinea are many cameleons, and they are far from living on air alone.

[In our next number we shall present our readers with further particulars of this curious animal.]

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TO THE EDITOR OF KIRBY'S SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM.

SIR,

There is something so awful and strikingly terrific, in the Younger Pliny's relation of the first irruption of Vesuvius, in which the Elder Pliny was suffocated, that I imagine it may be acceptable to most readers of your entertaining publication, particularly as this description is not generally known.

Yours, &c.

S. D.

PLINY at the time of the Ir of Vesuvius  
with a fleet under his command, of Vesuvius  
Gulf of Naples; his sister and daughter, Y  
Pliny, being with him. On the 24th of A  
year 79, about one in the afternoon, his  
him to observe a cloud of



He was in his study; but immediately arose, and went out upon an eminence to view it more distinctly. It was not at that distance discernable from what mountain this cloud issued, but it was found afterwards to ascend from Mount Vesuvius. Its figure resembled that of a pine-tree; for it shot up a great height in the form of a trunk, which extended itself at the top into a sort of branches, and it appeared sometimes bright, and sometimes dark and spotted, as it was more or less impregnated with earth and cinders. This was a noble phenomenon for the philosophic Pliny, who immediately ordered a light vessel to be got ready; but as he was coming out of the house, with his tablets for his observations, he received a note from Rectina, a lady of quality, earnestly entreating him to come to her assistance, since her villa being situate at the foot of Mount Vesuvius, there was no way for her escape, but by sea. He therefore ordered the gallies to put to sea, and went himself on board, with intention of assisting not only Rectina, but others: for the villas stood extremely thick upon that beautiful coast. He steered directly to the point of danger, whence others fled with the utmost terror; and with so much calmness and presence of mind, as to be able to make and dictate his observations upon the motion and figure of that dreadful scene. He went so nigh the mountain, that the cinders, which grew thicker and hotter the nearer he approached, fell into the ships, together with pumice-stones and black pieces of burning rock: they were likewise in danger, not only of being aground by the sudden retreat of the sea, but also from the vast fragments which rolled down from the mountain, and obstructed all the shore. Here he stopped to consider, whether he should return? to which the pilot advising him, "Fortune," said he, "befriends the brave; carry to Pompeianus." Pomponianus was then at Stal town re-  
sided

rated by a gulf, which the sea after several windings, forms upon that shore. He found him in the greatest consternation, he exhorted him to keep up his spirits; and the more to dissipate his fears, he ordered, with an air of unconcern, the baths to be got ready; when, after having bathed, he sat down to supper with an apparent cheerfulness. In the mean while the irruption from Vesuvius flamed out in several places with much violence, which the darkness of the night contributed to render still more visible and dreadful. Pliny, to soothe the apprehensions of his friend, assured him it was only the burning of the villages, which the country people had abandoned to the flames: after this, he retired, and had some sleep. The Court which led to his apartment being in some time almost filled with stones and ashes, if he had continued there any longer, it would have been impossible for him to have made his way out; it was therefore thought proper to awaken him. He got up, and went to Pomponianus and the rest of his company, who were not unconcerned enough to think of going to bed; they consulted together, whether it would be most prudent to trust to the houses, which now shook from side to side with frequent and violent rockings; or to fly to the open fields, where the calcined stones and cinders, though light indeed, yet fell in large showers, and threatened destruction. In this distress they resolved for the fields, as the less dangerous situation of the two; and went out, having pillows tied upon their heads with napkins, which was all their defence against the storms of stones that fell around them. It was now day every where else, but there a deeper darkness prevailed than in the most obscure night; which, however, was in some degree dissipated by torches, and other lights of various kinds.

They thought proper to go down farther upon the shore, to observe if they might safely put out to sea; but they found that the waves still ran extremely high and boisterous. There Pliny, taking a draught or two of water, threw himself down upon a cloth that was spread for him; when immediately the flames and a strong smell of sulphur, which was the forerunner of them, dispersed the rest of the company, and obliged him to arise. He raised himself, with the assistance of two of his servants, for he was pretty fat, and instantly fell down dead:—Suffocated, as his nephew conjectures, by some gross and noxious vapour; for he had always weak lungs, and was frequently subject to a difficulty of breathing. As soon as it was light again, which was not till the third day after, his body was found entire, and without any marks of violence upon it; exactly in the same posture that he fell, and looking more like a man asleep than dead. The sister and nephew, whom the uncle left at Misenum, continued there that night, but had their rest extremely broken and disturbed. There had been for many days before some shocks of an earthquake, which was the less surprizing, as they were always extremely frequent in Campania; but they were so particularly violent that night, that they not only shook every thing, but seemed to threaten a total destruction. When the morning came, the light was exceedingly faint and languid, and the buildings continued to totter; so that Pliny and his mother resolved to quit the town, and the people followed them in the utmost consternation. Having got to a convenient distance from the houses, they stood still, in the midst of a most dangerous and dreadful scene. The chariots they had ordered to be drawn out, were so agitated backwards and forwards, though upon the most level ground, that they could not keep them wedfast, even by supporting them with large stones.

The

The sea seemed to roll back upon itself, and to be driven from its banks by the convulsive motion of the earth; it was certain at least, that the shore was considerably enlarged, and several sea animals were left upon it. On the other side, a black and dreadful cloud, bursting with an igneous serpentine vapour, darted out a long train of fire, resembling flashes of lightning, but much larger. Soon afterwards, the cloud seemed to descend, and cover the whole ocean; as indeed, it entirely had the island of Capreæ, and the promontory of Misenum. Pliny's mother conjured him strongly to make his escape, which, being young, for he was only eighteen years of age, he might easily do; as for herself, her age and corpulency, rendered all attempts of that sort impossible: but he refused to leave her, and taking her by the hand, led her on. The ashes began to fall upon them, though in no great quantity; but a thick smoke, like a torrent, came rolling after them. Pliny proposed, while they had any light, to turn out of the high road, lest his mother should be pressed to death in the dark, by the crowd that followed them; and they had scarcely stepped out of the path when utter darkness entirely overspread them. Nothing then was to be heard, says Pliny, but the shrieks of women, the screams of children, and the cries of men: some calling for their children, others for their parents, others for their husbands, and only distinguishing each other by their voices; one lamenting his own fate, another that of his family, some wishing to die from the very fear of dying, some lifting up their hands to the Gods; but the greater part imagining, that the last and eternal night was come, which was to destroy both the Gods and the world together. At length a glimmering light appeared, which however was not the return of day, but only the forerunner of an approaching burst of flames. The fire luckily fell at a distance from them; then again they

were immersed in thick darkness, and a heavy shower of ashes rained upon them, which they were obliged every now and then to shake off to prevent being crushed and bruised in the heap. At length this dreadful darkness was dissipated by degrees, like a cloud of smoke: the real day returned, and even the Sun appeared, though very faintly, and as when an eclipse is coming on, and every object seemed changed, being covered over with white ashes, as with a deep snow. Pliny owns very frankly, that his support, during this terrible phænomenon, was chiefly founded in that miserable, though strong consolation, that all mankind were involved in the same calamity, and that the world itself was perishing. They returned to Misenum, but without yet getting rid of their fears; for the earthquake still continued, while, as was extremely natural in such a situation, several enthusiastic people ran up and down, heightening their own and their friends calamities by terrible predictions.

This event happened A. D. 79, in the first year of the Emperor Titus; and was probably the first irruption of Mount Vesuvius, at least of any consequence, as it is certain we have no particular account of any preceding irruption. Dio, indeed, and other ancient authors, speak of this as burning before; but still they describe it as covered with trees and vines, so that the irruptions must have been inconsiderable. Martial has an epigram upon this subject, in which he gives us a view of Vesuvius, as it appeared before this terrible conflagration broke out. Mr. Melmoth's translation runs thus:

" Here verdant Vines o'erspread Vesuvius' Sides,  
The generous Grape here pour'd her purple Tides;  
This Bacchus lov'd beyond his native Scene,  
Here dancing Satyrs joy'd to trip the Green.  
Far more than Sparta this in Venus' Grace,  
And great Alcides once renown'd the place;  
Now flaming embers spread fire waste around,  
And gods regret, that gods can thus confound."

LOCAL

## LOCAL SINGULARITIES OF A DISTRICT IN YORKSHIRE.

The following Particulars are extracted from a Manuscript of John Watson, Esq. who, about the Year 1730, resided at Malton, in Yorkshire.

“UPON the middle of Bramham Moor, a man may see ten miles round him; within those ten miles, there is as much freestone as will build ten cities as large as York, and York is supposed to be as large as London within the walls.—Within those ten miles is as much good oak-timber as will build those ten cities—within those ten miles there is as much limestone, and coals to burn it into lime, as will build those ten cities. There is also as much clay and sand, and coals to burn them into bricks and tile, as will build those ten cities—Within those ten miles, there are two iron forges, sufficient to furnish iron to build those ten cities, and 10,000 tons to spare.—Within those ten miles, there is lead sufficient, and 10,000 fodder to spare.—Within those ten miles, there is a good coal seam, sufficient to furnish those ten cities with firing for 10,000 years.—Within those ten miles, are three navigable rivers, Ouse, Ware, and Wharfe, at the foot of which a man may take shipping and sail to any part of the world.—Within those ten miles, are seventy gentlemens’ houses, all keeping coaches, and the least of them an esquire; and ten parks and forests well stocked with deer.—Within those ten miles, there are ten market-towns, each of which may be supposed to return 10,000*l.* per week.”



## EXTRAORDINARY CHARACTER.

IN the month of March, 1803, died, at her house in St. Peter's-street, Canterbury, Mrs. Celestina Collins, widow,

ing of any in all Dalmatia, or perhaps on the whole continent. This truly degraded tribe possesses no instinct but that of destruction. In the district inhabited by it, not a blade of corn, not a fruit tree, shrub or useful plant of any description is to be seen; these senseless and improvident wretches tear up every thing that the earth is inclined to produce for their nourishment. As an instance of their inconceivable imbecility, while they destroy trees, grain, and even grass, they shew respect to thorns, thistles and briars, so that, having madly deprived themselves of every vegetable capable of furnishing the means of protracting their deplorable existence; they are obliged to feed upon insects, fish, or muscles; which the sea casts on their shores, or which the compassion of the fishermen of the neighbouring parts bestows upon their disgusting indigence. Without industry, care, energy, and probably even ideas, they sit the whole day at the doors of their miserable huts or on the rocks which surround them. Their features are haggard, their complexions tanned by the Sun, and darkened with misery. Their looks are expressive of fear; their hair black and flowing, their habits of body meagre, their limbs slender and proportioned. They are more timid than wicked, more brutal than ferocious; the most simple ideas never reach their minds! they are incapable alike of comprehending, recollecting, or imitating, and do not seem to imagine that any thing in the world can be either useful; convenient, or agreeable. It would be an insult to human nature to call them savages; they possess neither their candour, simplicity, courage, nor spirit of independence. Savages are the first link in the grand chain of mankind, and these people appear to be the last. Their origin is unknown, but they are said to have been at one time formidable to the Turks. They may probably be some wretched remnant of the Uscoques, who being held

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in general detestation, and being reduced by the change of war, or other calamities, have lost for ever, under the lash of of terror, both the sensation of their misfortunes and of their misery; in whom not only the dignity of human nature, but likewise the faculties of the understanding, together with reason itself are extinguished.

Such are the observations of M. Cassas; and they agree with those made on these people by the Abbé Fortis, who says: "Notwithstanding the abundance and variety of the fish cast in various seasons of the year on the strand of Slosella, the indolent inhabitants neglect every method by which they might be turned to advantage." They are contented to live from hand to mouth, and devour without bread, and frequently without any kind of preparation all the fish they take. In spring these silly peasants live entirely upon cuttle-fish. They catch them by immersing in the water branches of trees, to which this fish adheres for the purpose of depositing its spawn; and if, to procure even this sustenance, a more complicated contrivance were necessary, I believe they would starve, rather than take the trouble to employ it. They are equally enemies to their own welfare, and that of others; so that to prevent the introduction of large fishing nets by their lord, they rolled large stones into all the deep waters near the shore, where they would have been of infinite advantage to them."



*An Account of the Birth and Education of the unfortunate Prince, who was secluded from Society by Cardinals RICHELIEU and MAZARIN; and afterwards imprisoned by order of LEWIS the XIVth.*

[From Memoires du Marcehal Duc de Richelieu, &c.]

THE unfortunate Prince whom I have brought up, and taken care of till the close of my life, was born September



ber 5, 1638, at half past eight. His brother, the present sovereign, was born in the morning of the same day, about twelve o'clock. But the births of these princes presented a striking contrast, for the eldest's was as splendid and brilliant as the youngest's was melancholy and private.

The King, soon after the queen was safely delivered of the first prince, was informed by the midwife, that her majesty was still in labour. This intelligence alarmed him greatly, and he ordered the chancellor of France, the first almoner, the queen's confessor, and myself, to remain in her apartment till she was delivered, as he wished us to be witnesses of the steps which he meant to take, if she gave birth to another dauphin; for it had been foretold by some shepherds, that the queen was pregnant with two sons; they also reported, that they had obtained this knowledge by divine inspiration. This report was soon circulated through Paris, and the people, alarmed by it, loudly asserted, that if this prediction should be verified, it would cause the total ruin of the state. The archbishop of Paris was soon informed of these transactions, and after conversing with the divines, ordered the shepherds to be closely confined in the prison of Lazarus; for the serious effect their prophecy had produced in the minds of the people, had given the king some uneasiness, because it made him reflect on the disturbances he had to fear in his kingdom. He informed the cardinal of this prediction, who in his answer said, that the birth of two dauphins was not impossible, and that if the peasants' prophecy should be realized, the last-born must be concealed with the greatest care, as he might, when he grew up, conceive that he had a right to the crown, and cause another league in the kingdom.

During the queen's second labour, which lasted several hours, the king was tormented by his apprehensions,

for he felt a strong presentiment, that he should soon be the father of two dauphins. He desired the bishop of Meaux not to leave the queen till she was delivered, and afterwards turning to us all, said, sufficiently loud to be heard by the queen, that if another dauphin should be born, and any of us should divulge the secret, our heads should answer for it: for, added he, his birth must be a secret of state, to prevent the misfortunes which would evidently follow the disclosure; as the salic law has been silent concerning the inheritance of a kingdom, on the birth of male twins.

The event, which had been foretold, soon after arrived, for the queen, whilst the king was at supper, gave birth to a second son much smaller and handsomer than the first; and the poor infant, by his incessant cries, seemed to lament his entrance into a world where so much misery was in store for him. The chancellor then drew up the verbal-process of this extraordinary event, but the king not approving of the first, it was burnt in our presence, and it was not till after he had written a great many that his majesty was satisfied. The first almoner endeavoured to persuade the king, that he ought not to conceal the birth of a prince; to which his majesty replied, that a reason of state absolutely required the most inviolable secrecy.

The king soon after dictated the oath of secrecy, which he desired us all to sign; when this important business was concluded, he sealed the oath to the verbal process, and took possession of it. The royal infant was then given into the hands of the midwife; but, to deter her from revealing the secret of its birth, she was menaced with death if she ever gave the least hint of it; we were all, likewise, strictly charged not even to converse with each other on the subject.

His majesty dreaded nothing so much as a civil war;  
and

and he thought that the dissensions which would certainly occur between the two brothers, if they were brought up as such, would certainly occasion one; the cardinal, also, when he was invested with the superintendence of the prince's education, did every thing in his power to keep this apprehension alive.

The king ordered us to examine carefully the poor child's body, to see if he had any marks by which he might hereafter be known, if his brother should die; for the king always purposed, in that case, to put the royal infant in possession of his rights; for this reason, after having made us all sign the verbal-process, he sealed it with the royal seal.

During the infancy of the young prince, Madame Peronnette, the midwife, treated him as if he were her own son; but from her great care and manner of living, every one suspected that he was the illegitimate son of some rich nobleman.

As soon as the prince's infancy was over, Cardinal Mazarin, on whom his education had devolved, consigned him to my care, with orders to educate him in a manner suitable to the dignity of his birth, but in private. Mad. Peronnette continued to attend him, in my house in Burgundy, till her death; and they were warmly attached to each other.

I had frequent conversations with the queen during the subsequent disturbances in this kingdom; and her majesty has often said to me, that if the prince's birth should be discovered during the life of the young king, his brother, the mal-contents would, she feared, take advantage of it to raise a revolt among the people; for, she added, that it was the opinion of many able physicians, that the last-born of twins was the first conceived, and of course the eldest. This fear did not, however, prevent the queen from preserving, with the greatest

care, the written testimonies of the prince's birth; for she intended, if any accident had befallen his brother, to have recognised him, though she had another son.

The young prince received as good an education, as I could have wished to have received myself in similar circumstances; and a better one than was bestowed on the acknowledged princes.

When he was about nineteen, his desire to know who he was increased to a great degree, and he tormented me with continual solicitations to make him acquainted with the author of his existence; the more earnest he was, the more resolute were my refusals; and when he saw that his entreaties did not avail, he endeavoured to persuade me that he thought he was my son. Often when he called me by the tender name of father, did I tell him that he deceived himself; but, at length, seeing that he persevered in this opinion, I ceased to contradict him, and gave him reason to believe that he was really my son. He appeared to credit this, with a view, no doubt, of forcing me by these means to reveal the truth to him; as I afterwards learned that he was at that very time doing all in his power to discover who he was.

Two years elapsed in this manner, when an imprudent action, for which I shall ever reproach myself, revealed to him the important secret of his birth. He knew that I had received, at that time, many expresses from the king; and this circumstance, probably, raised some doubts in his mind, which he sought to clear up by opening my scrutoire, in which I had imprudently left many letters from the queen and the cardinal. He read them; and their contents, aided by his natural penetration, discovered the whole secret to him.

I observed about this time, that his manners were quite changed, for instead of treating me with that affection

tion and respect which I was accustomed to receive from him, he became surly and reserved. This alteration at first surprised me, but I too soon learnt the cause.

My suspicions were first roused by his asking me, with great earnestness, to procure him the portraits of the late and present king. I told him in answer, that there had been no good resemblances of either drawn yet; and that I would wait till some eminent painter should execute their pictures.

This reply, which he appeared extremely dissatisfied with, was followed by a request to go to Dijon: the extreme disappointment he expressed on being refused, alarmed me, and from that moment I watched his motions more closely. I afterwards learnt that his motive for wishing to visit Dijon was, to see the king's picture; he had an intention also of going from thence to the court, that was then kept at St. Jean-de-Luz, to see, and compare himself with his brother.

The young prince was then extremely beautiful; and he inspired such an affection in the breast of a young chambermaid, that, in defiance of the strict orders which all the domesticks had received, not to give the prince any thing he required without my permission, she procured him the king's portrait.

As soon as the unhappy prince glanced his eye on it, he was forcibly struck by its resemblance to himself; and well he might, for one portrait would have served for them both.—This sight confirmed all his doubts, and made him furious. He instantly flew to me, exclaiming, in the most violent passion, *This is the king!* and I am his brother: here is an undeniable proof of it. He then shewed me a letter from Cardinal Mazarin that he had stolen out of my scrutoire, in which his birth was mentioned.

I now feared that he would contrive means to escape to  
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the court during the celebration of his brother's nuptials; and to prevent this meeting, which I greatly dreaded, I soon after sent a messenger to the king to inform him of the prince's having broken open my scrutoire; by which means he had discovered the secret of his birth; I also informed him the effect this discovery had produced in his mind. On the receipt of this letter, his Majesty instantly ordered us both to be imprisoned. The cardinal was charged with this order; and at the same time acquainted the prince, that his improper conduct was the cause of our common misfortune.

I have continued from that time till this moment a fellow prisoner with the prince; and now feeling that the awful sentence to depart this life has been pronounced by my heavenly Judge, I can no longer refuse to calm both my own mind and my pupil's, by a candid declaration of this important fact, which may enable him to extricate himself from his present ignominious state, if the king should die without issue. Ought I to be obliged by a forced oath to keep a secret inviolably, with which posterity ought to be acquainted?

This is the historical memoir which the regent delivered to the princess: it does not, indeed, certify that this prince was the prisoner known by the name of the iron-mask, but all the foregoing facts agree so well with the extraordinary anecdotes related of this mysterious personage, that it appears beyond contradiction, that this memoir fills up the vacuum relative to the beginning of his life. I will therefore subjoin some of the authentick anecdotes which have been given to the publick of the Iron Mask, since he arrived with Mr. de Saint-Mars at the state-prison in the Isle Sainte Marguerite.

The first person who mentions the Iron-mask is an anonymous author, in a work entitled, *Memoirs of the Court of Persia*; he related many auth

anecdotes  
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respecting the prisoner, but is totally mistaken in his conjectures concerning his rank. These memoirs no sooner appeared, than a crowd of literary men endeavoured to prove who this prisoner was whose extraordinary treatment had excited such universal curiosity. One asserted that he was the Duke of Beaufort, who was certainly killed by the Turks whilst he was defending Candia, in the year 1699. For in the first place it is well known that the Iron-mask was in confinement at Pignerol before he came to the Isle Saint Marguerite, in the year 1662: besides, how was it possible for the duke to be stolen from his army so secretly as to escape discovery? For what reason also was he imprisoned? and why was it necessary for him to be constantly masked? Others contested, that the prisoner was the Count Vermandois, a natural son of Louis the XIVth, who died publicly of the small-pox in 1683. Another author contended, that he was the duke of Monmouth, who was beheaded at London in 1675: even allowing it possible that Louis would have consented to imprison the Duke to oblige king James, is it probable that he would have continued the pleasing office of jailor, after his death, to oblige a sovereign with whom he was at war?

All these chimeras are now dissipated by this important relation; and the uncommon precautions which were used to conceal the face of the man in the iron-mask, is a further proof that he was the identical prince mentioned in the memoirs; for he was never permitted to walk in the court of the Bastille without his mask: which he was forbidden to take off, even in the presence of his physicians. Would this precaution have been taken, if his face had not been a striking likeness of one well known throughout all France? and what face could this be but that of his brother, Louis the XIVth, to whom this unfortunate prince bore so great a resemblance  
that

## 230 ACCOUNT OF THE MAN WITH THE IRON MASK.

that a slight glance of him, it was feared, would have betrayed the secret which was so ardently wished to be concealed? Why, also, had he an Italian name given him, though he had no foreign accent? for in the register of his burial at St. Paul's church he is called Marchiali. Voltaire seems to have been the only writer who was acquainted with the mystery of this extraordinary prisoner's birth; though, notwithstanding he related many authentick anecdotes of him, he carefully concealed it.

We will now give the reader a succinct account of the man in the iron mask, extracted from the writings of Voltaire, and many other eminent authors. A few months after the death of cardinal Mazarin, a young prisoner arrived at the Isle of Sainte Marguerite, whose appearance excited universal curiosity; his manners were graceful and dignified, his person above the middle size, and his face extremely handsome. On the way thither he constantly wore a mask made with iron springs, to enable him to eat without taking it off. It was, at first, believed that this mask was made entirely of iron, from whence he acquired the name of the man with the iron mask. His attendants had received orders to kill him, if he attempted to take off his mask, or discover himself.

The prisoner remained in this isle till the year 1699, when the governor of Pignerol being promoted to the government of the Bastille, conducted him to that fortress. In his way thither, he topped with him at his estate near Palteau. The prisoner arrived there in a litter, surrounded by a numerous guard on horseback. Mr. de Saint Mars ate at the same table with him all the time they resided at Palteau; but the latter was always placed with his back towards the windows; and the peasants, whom

cept constantly



for several years, was sitting in her elbow chair before the fire, while her waiting-maid went out of the room a few moments. On her return, seeing her mistress on fire, she immediately gave an alarm, and some people having come to her assistance, one of them endeavoured to extinguish the flames with his hands, but they adhered to it as if they had been dipped in brandy or oil on fire. Water was brought and thrown on the lady in abundance, yet the fire appeared more violent, and was not extinguished till she was all consumed. Her skeleton, exceedingly black, remained entire in the chair, which was only a little scorched; one leg only and the two hands detached themselves from the rest of the bones. It is not known whether her clothes caught fire by approaching the grate. The lady was in the same place in which she sat every day; there was no extraordinary fire, and she had not fallen. What makes me suppose that the use of spirits might have produced this effect, is that I have been assured, that at the gate of Dinan an accident of the like kind happened to another woman, under similar circumstances.

To the above we shall add two other facts of the same kind published in the *Journal de Medicine* (Vol. 69. p. 440.) The first took place at Aix in Provence, and is thus related by Muraire a surgeon: In the month of February 1779, Mary Jauffret, widow of Nicholas Gravier, shoemaker, a short woman, but exceedingly corpulent, and addicted to drinking, having been burned in her apartment, my colleague, M. Rocas, who was commissioned to make a report respecting her body, found nothing but a mass of ashes and a few bones, calcined in such a manner, that on the least pressure they were reduced to dust. The bones of the cranium, one hand and a foot had in part escaped the action of the fire.

Near

it up, and carried it to the governor. He was alarmed at the sight of it; and asked the man with great anxiety, whether he could read, and whether any one else had seen the plate? I cannot read, replied the fisherman; and no one else has seen the plate, as I have this instant found it. The man was, however, kept till the governor was well assured of the truth of his assertions.

He made another attempt to make himself known, which was equally unsuccessful. A young man, who lived in the isle, one day perceived something floating under the prisoner's window, and on picking it up, he discovered it to be a very fine shirt, written all over. He carried it immediately to the governor, who, after unfolding it, appeared in the greatest consternation. He enquired of the young man whether he had had the curiosity to read what was written on it? He answered no; but notwithstanding this reply, he was found, a few days after, dead in his bed.

The fate of the iron-mask excited great curiosity; and a young officer, who visited Mr. de Saint Mars, when he resided at Sainte Marguerite, was so desirous to see him, that he bribed a sentinel, who was stationed in a gallery under the prisoner's window, to let him take his place for a short time.—He had a perfect view of him from thence, as he was then without his mask. His face was fair and handsome; and his person tall, and finely formed. His hair was perfectly grey, though he was only in the flower of his age. He spent the whole night in walking up and down the room.

Father Griffet, in his Journal of the Bastille, says, that on the 8th of September, 1698, Mr. de Saint Mars, newly-created governor of that fortress, made his first entrance into it, bringing with him an ancient prisoner, whom he had taken care of at Pignerol, and at the Isle Sainte Marguerite. His name was not mentioned,

and he was kept constantly masked. An apartment was prepared for him, by order of the governor, before his arrival, fitted up in the most convenient style. When he was allowed to go to mass, he was strictly forbidden to speak, or uncover his face; and orders were given to the soldiers to fire upon him if he attempted either. As he passed through the court, their pieces were always pointed towards him.

This unfortunate prince died the 19th of November, 1703, after a short illness, and was buried in St. Paul's church. The expence of his funeral amounted only to forty livres. His real name and age were concealed from the priests who buried him; for, in the register made of his funeral, it was mentioned, that he was about forty years old; and he had told his apothecary, some time before his death, that he thought he must be sixty.

It is a well-known fact, that every thing which he had used was, after his death, burnt and destroyed; even to the doors of his prison. His plate was melted down; and the walls of his chamber were scraped and white-washed. Nay, such was the fear of his having left a letter or any mark, which might lead to discover who he was, that the very floor of his room was taken up, and the ceiling taken down. In short, every corner was searched into, that no trace might remain of him.

The result of these extraordinary accounts is, that the iron-mask must have been a person of great consequence; and what person could have been of sufficient consequence, excepting this prince, to give rise to the above-mentioned precautions to prevent any discovery of his face and rank. For, on the slightest probability of a discovery, the governor expressed the greatest consternation; and the effectual steps which he took to silence all those who were so unfortunate as to find any thing on which the poor prisoner had written, was ano-

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ther striking proof that his being concealed was of the utmost consequence to the king and the ministry.

*An Account, &c. of a MURDER, committed in CRIPPLEGATE PARISH, Dec. 16, 1695, related by Mr. SMITHIES, Curate of that Parish, and attested by Dr. FOWLER, then Bishop of GLOUCESTER.*

THREE men came to Mr. Stockden's house in the evening, and called for drink, and staid late, though Mr. Stockden desired them to be gone. As he sat in his chair, one of them cried come, and immediately seized him, and Mary Footman his kinswoman and house-keeper, bound her, and thrust a handkerchief into her mouth; two of them strangled Mr. Stockden with a linnen cloth, struck him with the lock of a pistol on the forehead, and killed him. They took what money and plate they could find.

Soon after Mr. Stockden appeared to Mrs Greenwood, a neighbour (in a dream) and shewed her a house in Thames Street, where Maynard one of the murderers was; the next morning she went and enquired for him, and was informed he was just gone out. Mr. Stockden appeared again, and described him, and told her a Wire-drawer must take him; one of that trade, and his intimate, was accordingly found, who for a reward of Ten Pounds was prevailed upon to undertake it: upon which he was taken, and carried to Newgate, confessed the fact, and impeached three others, Marsh, Bevil, and Mercer. Marsh, though not present at the murder, was he setter on, and had a share of the booty; and hearing of the information against him, ran away.

Mr. Stockden appeared again to Mrs. Greenwood, and led her to a house in Old Street, shewed her a pair of stairs,

stairs, and told her one of them lodged there. Thither the next morning she went, heard of him, and by pursuing from place to place, Marsh was taken.

Bevil was discovered in like manner by Mrs. Greenwood dreaming that Mr. Stockden had her over the bridge, up the Borough into a yard. Thereupon she went the next day to the Marshalsea, where she found him, being brought thither for coining; he was removed to Newgate, and confessed the fact.

Mercer did not consent to the murder of Mr. Stockden, and preserved the life of Mrs. Footman; nor did Mrs. Greenwood dream any thing concerning him. He became evidence and escaped; the other three were executed. After this Mr. Stockden came to her and said, "Elizabeth, I thank thee, the God of Heaven reward thee, for what thou hast done!" after which she reposed quiet.



FARTHER ACCOUNT OF PERSONS DESTROYED BY INTERNAL FIRE.

[Concluded from Page 341.]

IN a Memoir on spontaneous burning, Le Cat mentions several other instances of combustion of the human body. Having, says he, spent several months at Rheims in the years 1724, and 1725, I lodged at the house of Sieur Millet, whose wife got intoxicated every day. The domestic concerns of the family were managed by a pretty handsome young girl, which I must not omit to remark, in order that all the circumstances which I am about to relate may be better understood. This woman was found consumed on the 20th of February, 1725, at the distance of a foot and a half from the hearth in her kitchen. A part of her head only, with a portion of the lower extremities, and a few of the vertebræ had escaped

ed combustion. A foot and a half of the flooring under the body had been consumed; but a kneading-trough and a flour-tub which were very near the body sustained no injury. M. Chriteen, a surgeon, examined the remains of the body with every judicial formality. Jean Millet, the husband, being interrogated by the Judges, who instituted the enquiry into the affair, declared, that about eight in the evening of the 19th of February, he had retired to rest with his wife, who not being able to sleep, had gone into the kitchen, where he thought she was warming herself; that having fallen asleep, he was wakened about two o'clock by an infectious odour, and that having run to the kitchen, he found the remains of his wife in the state described in the report of the physicians and surgeons. The judges having no suspicion of the real cause of this event, prosecuted the affair with the utmost diligence. It was very unfortunate for Millet, that he had a handsome servant maid, for neither his probity nor innocence was able to save him from the suspicion of having got rid of his wife by a concerted plot, and of having arranged the circumstances in such a manner as to give it the appearance of an accident. He experienced, therefore, the whole severity of the law; and though by an appeal to a superior and very enlightened court, which discovered the cause of the combustion, he came off victorious, he suffered so much from uneasiness of mind that he was obliged to pass the remainder of his melancholy days in a hospital.

Another instance almost exactly similar to the preceding is also related by Le Cat. M. Boineau, curé of Plerquer near Dol, says he, wrote to me the following letter, dated February 22, 1749.—Allow me to communicate to you a fact which took place here about a fortnight ago. Madame de Boiseon, eighty years of age, exceedingly meagre, who had drunk nothing but spirits  
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for several years, was sitting in her elbow chair before the fire, while her waiting-maid went out of the room a few moments. On her return, seeing her mistress on fire, she immediately gave an alarm, and some people having come to her assistance, one of them endeavoured to extinguish the flames with his hands, but they adhered to it as if they had been dipped in brandy or oil on fire. Water was brought and thrown on the lady in abundance, yet the fire appeared more violent, and was not extinguished till she was all consumed. Her skeleton, exceedingly black, remained entire in the chair, which was only a little scorched; one leg only and the two hands detached themselves from the rest of the bones. It is not known whether her clothes caught fire by approaching the grate. The lady was in the same place in which she sat every day; there was no extraordinary fire, and she had not fallen. What makes me suppose that the use of spirits might have produced this effect, is that I have been assured, that at the gate of Dinan an accident of the like kind happened to another woman, under similar circumstances.

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Near these remains stood a table untouched, and under the table a small wooden stove, the grating of which having been long burned, afforded an aperture through which probably, the fire which occasioned the melancholy accident was communicated: one chair which stood too near the flames had the seat and fore-feet burned. In other respects there was no appearance of fire, either in the chimney or the apartment; so that, excepting the fore-part of the chair, it appears to me that no other combustible matter contributed to this speedy incineration which was effected in the space of seven or eight hours.

The second instance took place at Caen, and is thus related by Merille, a surgeon of that city. Being requested on the 3d of June, 1782, by the king's officers to draw up a report of the state in which I found Mademoiselle Thuars, who is said to have been burned, I made the following observations.—The body lay with the crown of the head resting against one of the andirons, at the distance of eighteen inches from the fire; the remainder of the body was placed obliquely before the chimney, the whole being nothing but a mass of ashes. Even the most solid bones had lost their form and consistence; none of them could be distinguished, excepting the coronal, the two parietal bones, the two lumbar vertebræ, a portion of the tibia, and a part of the omoplate: and these were so calcined that they became dust by the least pressure. The right foot was found entire, and scorched at its upper junction; the left was more burned. The day was cold, but there was nothing in the grate excepting two or three bits of wood about an inch in diameter, burnt in the middle. None of the furniture in the apartment was damaged. The chair in which Mademoiselle Thuars had been sitting was found at the distance of a foot from her, and absolutely un-  
touched



touched. I must here observe that this lady was exceedingly corpulent, that ~~she was~~ above sixty years of age, and much addicted to spirituous liquors; that on the day of her death, she had drank three bottles of wine, and about a bottle of brandy; and that the consumption of the body took place in less than seven hours, though according to appearance, nothing round the body was burnt but the clothes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC MUSEUM, OR MAGAZINE OF REMARKABLE CHARACTERS.

**SIR,**

On perusing the Account of the Ventriloquist, JAMES BURNS, (in the first Vol. of your Museum, page 280) given by your Correspondent Veritas, I was reminded of some Anecdotes of him which I had in my possession, as well as his Portrait, taken in the year 1794, both of which you will find inclosed. I should have transmitted them to you before your first Volume was concluded, to follow the Account of Veritas, had I then known his real name, but you will be pleased to observe, that he always went by the name of "Shelford Tommy," or "Squaking Tommy," while he resided in Nottinghamshire, and his real name was unknown to the generality of the people. There has not as yet been any regular history of him published down to his death: the following Anecdotes are selected from Throsby's History of Nottinghamshire, and other authorities, or communicated by persons of respectability, whose veracity I could depend upon. If you think they are worthy of being classed among the many remarkable Characters in your Repository, by allowing them, with the plate, a place in some of the future numbers of the same, it will confer an obligation on

Your Humble Servant.

NOTTINGHAM, April 1804.

**D. B L.**

*Anecdotes of JAMES BURNS, formerly a conspicuous Character in the County of Nottingham, with his Portrait. (Never before published.)*

THAT eccentric and well known Character, JAMES BURNS, (more generally known by the appellations of "Shelford Tommy," or "Squeaking Tommy,") the celebrated VENTRILOQUIST, was a native of Ireland, but re-

Vol. II. A A A sided

sided several years in this kingdom. Having married a wife at Shelford, he always afterwards considered that village as his home, whenever his inclination led, or eccentricity suffered him to desist, for short intervals, from his perambulations through different parts of this country. He had several liberal offers from different companies of Itinerants to induce him to engage with them for limited periods, in the exercise of his wonderful and extraordinary faculty; but as Tommy's mind could not brook the idea of confinement, he never thought proper to accede to their proposals. Although he was a bird of passage, he was most frequently to be seen at Nottingham, where by his extraordinary natural powers he, in a great measure, subsisted for some years. He always carried in his pocket, an ill-shaped doll with a broad face, wrapped up in a piece of linen cloth, which he exhibited at public houses on race-days, fair-days, market-days, &c. as giving utterance to his own childish jargon. The gazing crowd gathered around him to see this wooden baby, and hear as they supposed its speeches.

Among the many ludicrous, but well attested and singular anecdotes related of this extraordinary man, the following are not the least worthy of recording :

Tommy was one day in the month of June, 1789, at the week-day cross, at Nottingham, and there so much surprized a country girl in a frolicsome moment, by her hearing as she thought, a child speak to her, and seeing none, that her astonishment was wrought up to such a pitch, as to bring on a succession of alarming fits, by which the poor girl suffered for some time. This wanton exercise of his talents got Tommy a lodging for a short time in the House of Correction by order of the magistrates; William Smith, Esq. then mayor of the town.

Some time in the month of March 1790, the writer of  
this

this sketch was in the shop of the late Mr. Barton, a respectable grocer, who lived at the bottom of Hollowstone, which is the south entrance into the town of Nottingham, when Tommy entered and purchased an ounce of tobacco, and turning himself round apparently as if going out, he observed a young man belonging to the shop, with his hand in a large cannister (which stood on the opposite side of the shop, getting tea out of it into a smaller one. Tommy immediately threw a sound to the bottom of the cannister, and imitated the groans of an animal as if at the point of death so naturally, that the young man as well as Mr. Barton stood aghast at the noise, and were preparing to search the cannister, when I undeceived them, by informing them of the real cause, as I had several times before been witness to his extraordinary powers as a Ventriloquist.

Another of his jokes is told thus: In August 1792, following John Badderly, (who was then servant to a respectable farmer at Car-Colston) upon the public highway between Bingham and Newark, driving a waggon top laden with trusses of hay, he so artfully imitated the crying of a child, as proceeding from the middle of the hay, that the waggoner stopped his horses several times on the road, to examine the waggon, conceiving that the cries of the child came from within his carriage. But on examining the hay at the tail of the waggon, he could discover no child, and consequently proceeded on his journey, with the wily Ventriloquist by his side. The noise was several times repeated, and the waggoner was induced through motives of humanity, seconded by the earnest entreaties of Tommy (he kindly offering his assistance) to unlade the waggon, expecting on the removal of each truss to find the *harmless infant*, particularly as the cries became louder and more frequent.—Tommy having thus succeeded in getting the hay of the waggon,

after laughing heartily at the countryman's simplicity, left him to replace the same in the best manner he could, the poor fellow bestowing on him in return a volley of hearty curses.

Our Ventriloquist was at another time in the house of Mr. Hogg, who kept the Milton's-head Inn, Cow-lane, Nottingham, and who at that time was a stranger to his extraordinary powers, where a servant girl in the kitchen was about to dress some fish, not long taken from the river Trent, but apparently dead.—When she was about to cut off the head of one of them, Tommy at the instant she laid the knife on the fish's neck, uttered in a plaintive voice; "*don't cut my head off.*" The girl upon this being much alarmed, and knowing not whence the voice proceeded, hastily drew the knife from the little fish and stood for some time in motionless amazement. At length, however, recovering herself, and not seeing the fish stir, she had courage to proceed to her business, and took up her knife the second time, to sever the head from ~~the~~ body. Tommy at that moment uttered rather sharply, but mournfully, "*what you will cut my head off?*" Upon which the frightened female threw down the knife, and positively refused to dress the fish.

The following is another anecdote of him.—In September 1795, going to a fish stall, in Sheffield, he asked the price of a tench, which being told him, he took the fish in his hand, and crammed a finger into its gills, opened its mouth, at the same time asking "*whether it was fresh?*" to which the fish-woman replied, "*I own to God it was in the water yesterday.*" Tommy immediately threw a sound into the fish's mouth, which articulated, "*It is a d——d lie, I have not been in the water this week, and you know it very well.*" The woman unconscious that she had been telling an a was struck the reproof with

with all the force of a *miracle*, and such were its wholesome effects, that she is said to have been more cautious in her assertions concerning her fish ever since.

This singular character died on Thursday the 7th of January, 1796, at Shelford, near Bingham, in the County of Nottingham.



*Observations on Giants, with an Account of some Persons who have exceeded the ordinary Stature, and a Description of the gigantic Inhabitants of Patagonia.*

THAT there exist men of a stature considerably above the ordinary standard, with more or less regularity of proportion, the celebrated O'Brien affords ocular demonstration. It is but natural to suppose, and indeed it is confirmed by the concurrent testimony of numerous writers, that such instances have been seen in every age. Respecting the stature of different individuals, as recorded by various authors, it is necessary to make a few remarks before I proceed to the proposed subject of the present paper.

In all the accounts of giants that have been handed down to us from the most remote period of antiquity, we find none of any *living* individual, who arrived at a greater height than nine, or at most ten feet, whence it may be fairly inferred, that these dimensions are the *ne plus ultra* of human growth. Supposing this to be the case, (and of this opinion I must profess myself to be) the pretended discoveries of immense human skeletons, related by many respectable writers, must be regarded as altogether fabulous.

Numbers of incidents of this kind are to be met with, for the authenticity of which we have no other voucher than the confidence due to first rate historians, but who might

might themselves have been deceived in the credit they gave to the relations of others from whom they borrowed the facts. In order to gratify the curiosity of our readers, we shall introduce a few incidents of this nature.

During the Cretan war, the rivers and waters are said to have risen to an unusual height, making various breaches in the earth. When the floods had retired, in a deep cleft and great fall of the earth, was found the body of a man, measuring thirty-three cubits, or forty-nine feet and a half. Metellus the Roman general, and his lieutenant Lucius Flacius, allured by the novelty of the report, went on purpose to view it, and were convinced of the truth of what they had before regarded as a fable.

Pliny, in his natural history, speaks of a mountain in Crete, that had been overturned by an earthquake, where a body was found standing upright, sixty-nine feet in height; and Plutarch says, that upon opening a sepulchre in Mauritania, a carcase was found of the enormous length of seventy cubits, or one hundred and five feet!

Philostrato informs us, that by the falling in of one of the banks of the Orontes, a body forty-six feet in length was discovered in the sepulchre belonging to the Ethiopian Ariadnes. He adds that in a cavern of Mount Sigæa, the body of a giant was found measuring upwards of thirty feet.

In the 58th Olympiad, by the admonition of the oracle, the body of Orestes was found at Tegeæ by the Spartans, and its length was exactly seven cubits or above ten feet.

In the description of Sicily by the historian, Thomas Tasellus, we read, that in the year 1342, some rustics having been digging at the foot of Mount Erix, now called Monte de Tripani, they discovered a large cavern,

vern, known by the appellation of the giant's cavern, in which they saw the body of a colossal figure seated. He had in his hand, says the historian, the mast of a vessel for a stick, in which was enclosed a mass of lead weighing 1500 pounds.

The same writer tells us, that in 1516, John Franciforte, Count of Mazarine, having caused a pit to be dug, in a plain about a mile distant from the village of which he was the lord, found in a sepulchre, the body of a giant measuring thirty feet.

In 1547, Paul Leontino, examining the soil at the foot of a mountain in the territory of Palermo, preparatory to the erection of saltpetre works, met with the body of a giant twenty-seven feet in length.

Tasellus likewise says, that in a small village between Syracuse and Leontium, a great number of sepulchres, and gigantic skeletons were discovered, and that many more of the like kind were met with near the ancient village of Hicara, which the Sicilians call Carini, in an immense cavern situated at the foot of a mountain.

But Sicily is not the only place where mighty carcasses and enormous skeletons are said to have been found. Phlegénitral assures us, that in the famous cavern of Diana, in Dalmatia, many bodies were discovered of the length of six yards. He likewise tells us that the Carthaginians when sinking their trenches, met with two coffins, each containing the skeleton of a giant. The length of the one was twenty-three, and of the other twenty-four cubits. He adds, that in the Cimmerian Bosphorus, an earthquake having thrown down a hill, several huge bones were found, which being arranged according to the disposition of the human body, formed an enormous skeleton twenty-four cubits in length.

Saxo the grammarian relates, that the giant Hartebenunf was thirteen feet and a half high, but that he had twelve companions who were each twenty eight feet.

Pigafetta says, that he met with men among the cannibals twice the size of an European; and that in the straits of Magellan there exist men of prodigious stature.

Melchior Nugnez, in his letters from India, speaks of soldiers who guarded the gates of the imperial city of Pekin, in China, of the formidable size of fifteen feet.

The history of the giant Pallas is related by a number of grave authors, who all assure us that in the reign of the Emperor Henry II. the body of a giant was found in a stone sepulchre near Berne, which, when standing upright, might have overlooked the walls of the city. This body was as entire as if it had been deposited there only a short time before. A wound was discovered on the breast, four feet and a half wide, and on the sepulchre the following epitaph was legible:

Filius Evandri, Pallas, quem lancea Turni  
Militis occidit, morte sua jacet hic.

Sigibert relates, that in the year 1771, an overflowing of the water in England, discovered the body of a giant fifty feet in length.

Fulgesius says, that in the reign of Charles VII. king of France, a sepulchre, with the bones of a giant thirty feet long, was to be seen, which the Rhone in its excavations had exposed to view in the hills of Vivarais, opposite Valence.

Cœlius Rhodiginus says, that during the reign of Louis XI. the body of a giant eighteen feet in length, was discovered upon the banks of a river which flows through the village of St. Peray, opposite Valence in Dauphiné.

According to the relation of Father Jerome de Monceaux, the skeleton of a giant ninety-six feet long, was found in a wall, in a village named Chailliot, six leagues from Thessalonica, in Macedonia. Tl

was communicated



municated to him by Father Jerome de Rhetel, missionary in the Levant, who in a letter written from the island of Scio, adds that this giant's skull was found entire, and was so capacious as to contain 210 pounds of corn; that a tooth belonging to the under jaw, when drawn, weighed fifteen pounds, and was seven inches two lines in length; that the smallest bone of the little toe of one of his feet was equal to it in size; that the arm bone from the elbow to the wrist, was two feet four inches, eight lines round; and that two soldiers with their jackets and coats with large sleeves, found no difficulty in running their arms thus covered through the cavity of this stupendous bone. Quenel, French Consul at Thessalonica, ordered an account of this monstrous skeleton to be drawn up and deposited among other public acts in Chancery. He received from the Pacha, the principal bones, and purchased the remainder from other persons who had taken them into their possession.

In digging at the foot of a great oak, commonly called the Giant's Oak near Ancona, in Italy, was found an entire skeleton of prodigious size. Near this skeleton were discovered eleven entire bodies, all nearly of the same size. These eleven bodies were laid on the back, with the face turned towards the sky, but the first was the only one that lay stretched on the belly, and his size exceeded that of the other eleven, for he measured ten Roman palms in length, and his teeth were exactly like those of a large horse.

Thomas Cornelio relates, that at Triolo, a castle of Upper Calabria, some labourers discovered in a garden an entire skeleton measuring eighteen Roman feet in length; the head was two feet and a half long; each molar tooth weighed about an ounce and one third, some more, others less; and each of the other teeth weighed upwards of three quarters of an ounce. The bones

were become extremely brittle, and easily crumbled into dust; but the teeth were much harder. The skeleton lay stretched upon a mass of bituminous matter like pitch.

Thus we are not without numerous authorities to prove that giants have existed in all ages; but it must likewise be allowed, that the improbable size attributed to those above-mentioned can scarcely engage our confidence in behalf of the truth of those facts. I shall now proceed to such accounts of persons of extraordinary stature, as rest upon undeniable authority, or at least are free from those circumstances by which the foregoing statements are rendered absolutely incredible.

In the Scripture we read of giants who were produced by the marriages of the sons of God, with the daughters of men. This passage has, however, been variously interpreted; so that it is doubtful whether the word there translated giants, implies any extraordinary stature. In other parts of Scripture, giants with their dimensions are spoken of in such a manner as to admit of no doubt; as in the case of Og, king of Bashan and Goliath.

Og, we are told, was "of the remnant of the giants," his bedstead was of iron, nine cubits in length, and four in breadth; that is about thirteen feet by six. The height of the champion of Gath was six cubits and a span, which is equal to about nine feet three inches. He had a helmet of brass, and was armed with a coat of mail, the weight of which was five thousand shekels of brass; "and the staff of his spear was like a weaver's beam, and his spear's head weighed six hundred shekels of iron."

The Roman Emperor Maximin, equally remarkable for his extraordinary stature and uncommon strength, has already been mentioned in your first volume.

An Arabian, named Gabara, brought to Rome during the reign of the Emperor Claudius, was esteemed the tallest

tallest man of that age, being nine feet nine inches in height.

Vitellius sent Darius the son of Artabanus an hostage to Rome, with various presents, which were accompanied by a Jew named Eleazar, of the height of seven cubits, or ten feet two inches.

Antonius, born in Syria during the reign of Theodosius, was seven feet seven inches high, but his feet were not proportionate to the magnitude of his body. We are informed by Nicephorus that he died at the age of twenty-five.

Aventine, an historian very deserving of credit, assures us in his work entitled *Annals of Bavaria*, that the Emperor Charlemagne, had in his army a giant named Ænotherus, a native of Turgau, near the lake of Constance, who threw down whole battalions with the same ease that he would have mowed a field; but he is silent with respect to his dimensions.

Thuanus, in his account of the incursion made by the Tartars into the Polish territories, in the year 1575, speaks of a Tartar of prodigious bulk, who was killed by a Pole. "His forehead," he says, "was twenty-four fingers broad, and his body of such magnitude, that the carcase, as it lay upon the ground, would reach to the navel of any ordinary person who stood by it."

In the year 1613, a young man named Jacobus Damman, then twenty-two years old, was brought to Basil, and exhibited as a shew on account of his extraordinary stature. He had then no beard, his body and limbs being strong built, but rather lean. He was eight feet high complete, and his hand measured one foot four inches.

About the middle of December 1671, one Thomas Birtles, a native of Cheshire, living near Macclesfield, arrived at Coventry. He had been at London, and on

his journey homewards, made a public shew of himself for his extraordinary stature. His height was about seven feet. His father was a man of moderate stature, and his mother nearly six feet. He himself, at that time, had a daughter, about sixteen years of age, who had already arrived at the height of six feet complete.

In the anatomical room of Trinity College, Dublin, is preserved the skeleton of one Magrath, who was born near Cloyne. It measures between seven and eight feet. This man was carried through various parts of Europe, and exhibited as the prodigious Irish giant; but such was his early imbecility, both of body and mind, that he died of old age in his twentieth year. Concerning this man, the following particulars are given by a very intelligent writer. "In his infancy he became an orphan, and was provided for by the famous Berkeley, then Bishop of Cloyne. This acute philosopher, who denied the existence of matter, was as inquisitive in his physical researches as he was whimsical in his metaphysical speculations. When I tell you that he had well-nigh put an end to his own existence, by experimenting what are the sensations of a person dying on the gallows, you will be the more ready to forgive him for his treatment of this orphan. The Bishop had a strange fancy to know whether it was not in the power of art to increase the human stature, and this unhappy infant appeared to him to be a fit subject for the trial. He made his essay according to his pre-conceived theory, whatever it might be, and the consequence was, that he became seven feet high in his sixteenth year."

Concerning the existence of a race of giants, the learned have been greatly divided. Ferdinand Magellan was the first who announced the discovery of such a race of people on the coast towards the extremity of South America. It appears that during one hundred years,

years, almost all succeeding navigators agreed in affirming the existence of a race of giants upon this coast; but during another century, a much greater number agreed in denying the fact, and treating their predecessors as idle fabulists. Some time before the voyage of Commodore Byron, in 1764, it was the subject of a warm contest among men of science, whether a race of mankind above the common stature did really exist on the coast of Patagonia, and the contradictory reports made by eye-witnesses tended greatly to perplex the question.

M. de Bougainville who visited part of this coast, in 1767, asserts that the Patagonians are not gigantic, and that what makes them appear so, is their prodigious broad shoulders, the great size of their heads, and the thickness of all their limbs.

That some giants inhabit these regions can, however, no longer be doubted; since the fact is established by the concurrent testimony of several English navigators, particularly Commodore Byron, and Captains Wallis and Carteret, the two latter of whom saw, conversed with, and even measured these people. Mr. Clarke who sailed with Commodore Byron, and who in the last voyage of discovery succeeded, on the death of Captain Cook, to the command of the two ships, addressed a paper to the Secretary of the Royal Society, confirming the gigantic height of the Patagonians.

Byron gives the following account of this monstrous people:—

“Just as we came to an anchor, I saw with my glass a number of horsemen riding backwards and forwards.—As I was very desirous to know what these people were, I ordered out my boat, and went towards the beach with Mr. Marshall, my second lieutenant, and a party of men; Mr. Cumming, my first lieutenant, following in the

six-oared cutter. When we near the shore, we saw about five hundred people, the far greater part of whom were on horseback. They drew up on a stony spot, and kept waving and hallooing, which we understood to be invitations to land. When I landed I drew up my people on the beach, with my officers at their head, and ordered that none should move from that station, till I should call or beckon to them. I then went forward alone towards the Indians. I made signs that one of them should come near, was understood, and one, who as it afterwards appeared was a chief, came towards me. He was of a gigantic stature, and seemed to realize the tales of monsters in human shape. He had the skin of some wild beast thrown over his shoulders, and was painted so as to make the most hideous appearance I had ever beheld. Round one eye was a large circle of white, a circle of black surrounded the other, and the rest of his face was streaked with different colours. I did not measure him, but if I may judge of his stature by my own, he could not be less than seven feet high. When this frightful colossus came up, we muttered somewhat to each other as a salutation, and I then walked with him towards his companions. There were among them many women, who seemed to be proportionably large; and few of the men were less than the chief who had come forward to meet me.

"Mr. Cumming then came up with some tobacco, and I could not but smile at the astonishment which I saw expressed in his countenance, upon perceiving himself, though six feet two inches high, become at once a pigmy among giants. Our sensations upon seeing five hundred people, the shortest of whom were at least six feet six inches high, and bulky in proportion, may easily be imagined."

Mr. Clarke, in the letter above

says, "We  
were

were with them near two hours at noon day, though none had the honour of shaking hands but Mr. Byron and Mr. Cumming; however, we were near enough and long enough with them to convince our senses so far, as not to be cavilled out of the very existence of those senses at that time, which some of our countrymen and friends would absolutely attempt to do. They are of a copper colour, with long black hair, and some of them are certainly nine feet, if they do not exceed it. The Commodore, who is very near six feet, could but just reach the top of one of their heads, which he attempted on tiptoes, and there were several taller than he on whom the experiment was made. They are prodigiously stout, and as proportionably made as ever I saw people in my life. The women I think bear much the same proportion to the men as our Europeans do. There was scarcely a man among them less than eight feet, most of them considerably more; the women I believe, run from seven and a half to eight."

Notwithstanding these concurring testimonies, M. de Buffon would not admit the existence of a race of giants, which point is strenuously contended for by Lord Monboddo. That nobleman relates, that M. Guyot, Captain of a French ship trading to the South Sea, brought from the coast of Patagonia, a skeleton of one of these giants, measuring between twelve and thirteen feet, purposing to bring it to Europe; but happening to be overtaken by a violent storm, and having the Spanish archbishop of Lima on board, the ecclesiastic declared that the storm was caused by the bones of the pagan then on board, and insisted on having the skeleton thrown into the sea. "The archbishop," adds his lordship, "died soon afterwards, and was thrown overboard in his turn. I could have wished that he had been thrown overboard sooner, and then the bones of the Patagonian would have arrived

rived safe in France, though I am persuaded they would not have made Buffon alter his opinion, but he would have still maintained, that it was only an accidental variety of the individual, not any difference of the race."

I shall just observe, that if the accounts of the English navigators are at all to be depended upon, the opinions of his lordship must undoubtedly be adopted ~~in~~ preference to that of the celebrated French philosopher.

*Interesting Particulars, and wonderful Adventures of that extraordinary and eccentric character JOHN METCALF, commonly called Blind Jack of Knaresborough, with a striking Likeness.*

It has been justly remarked, that those who have the Misfortune to be deprived of one sense, generally enjoy the others in greater perfection than those who do not labour under such a deficiency. This we find strikingly exemplified in the subject of the present article, who, notwithstanding his eccentricities, has, during a great part of his long life, been an active and useful member of society.

**JOHN METCALF** was born at Knaresborough in Yorkshire, on the 15th of August 1717. At the age of four years, his parents, who were labouring people, put him to school, where he continued two years, when he was seized with the small-pox, which deprived him of his sight in spite of all the means that were employed for its preservation.

About six months after his recovery, he was able to go from his father's house to the end of the street, and to return without a guide; and in about three years he could find his way to any part of Knaresborough. About this period he began to associate with boys of his own age, among whom he acted a distinguished part in the juvenile prauks of taking birds nests, robbing orchards, &c.

His





*John . Metcalf*  
*or Blind Jack of . Knaresborough.*  
Aged 88.

*Pub.<sup>d</sup> July 26. 1804. by N. P. Kirby. W. London. Horse Yard to St. Pauls. 447. Strand.*

cured some long cart-ropes, fixed a hook at one end, and leaving the other to be held by some persons on the High Bridge, he descended, and by degrees recovered the whole of the yarn.

He continued to practise on the violin, till he was able to play country dances. During the winter season he performed as a wait at Knaresborough, with three others; he likewise constantly attended the assemblies which were held every fortnight, and went, besides, to many other places where there was public dancing.

Notwithstanding this application, he found opportunity for playing his neighbours a number of mischievous tricks, and for a long time escaped suspicion. At length, however, his expertness became known, and when any arch trick had been played, the first enquiry always was, where Metcalf was at the time.

Though his time was pretty well engaged, he still retained his fondness for hunting, and also began to keep game-cocks. Whenever he went to a cock-pit, it was his custom to place himself on the lowest seat, near some friend who was a good judge, and who, by certain motions enabled him to bet, hedge, &c.

In 1732, he was invited to Harrowgate to play at the assembly, as successor to a poor old man who had played there for twenty years, and who, being borne down by the weight of one hundred years, began to play too slow for country dances. Here he was well received by the visiting nobility and gentry. In this employment he passed his evenings, and the mornings he spent in cocking, hunting, and coursing. About this period, also, he bought a horse, and often ran him for small plates; and his engagements increasing, he took a partner who was likewise a good performer.

In summer he often played at bowls, and singular as it may seem, was frequently the winner; he likewise began

began to engage his attention, and he generally won the majority of the games. But these achievements were far from being the limits of his ambition or capacity; for he now began to attend the races at York, and other places; at the race ground he commonly rode in among the crowd, and was often successful in his bets, in which he was however assisted by several gentlemen to whom he was known.

Having once matched one of his horses to run three miles for a considerable wager, and the parties agreeing each to ride his own horse, they set up posts at certain distances on the Forest Moor, describing a circle of one mile; having consequently to go three times round the course. From the supposition that Metcalf would be unable to keep the course, great odds were laid against him. His ingenuity furnished him with an expedient in this dilemma. He procured as many bells as possible, and placing a man with one of them at each post, was enabled by this ringing to judge when to turn. By these means, and the superior speed of his horse, he came in winner, amidst the applause of all present, excepting those who had betted against him.

At different times he bought horses to sell them again, which he often did with a large profit, so accurate was his judgment.

In 1738, Metcalf attained the age of twenty-one; he was then extremely robust, and six feet one inch and a half in height. He about this time acquired considerable celebrity as a pugilist from the following circumstance. A friend of his being insulted in a public-house, by a man of the name of Bake, who, from his ferocious temper and great strength, was the general dread of the neighbourhood, Metcalf bestowed on him such discipline as soon extorted a cry of mercy.

Returning one day on foot from Harrowgate, he had proceeded about a mile, when he was overtaken by a Knaresborough man on horseback, who proposed for two shillings worth of punch to let him ride in turn, dividing the distances equally. To this Metcalf agreed, upon condition that he should have the first ride, which his townsman assented to, on these terms; that he should ride a little beyond Poppleton Field, where on his right hand he would see a gate, to which he should fasten the horse. Metcalf however rode on to Knaresborough, which was seventeen miles from the place where he left his fellow-traveller. The latter was greatly enraged at being obliged to walk so far, but Metcalf pleading in excuse that he never saw the gate, he found it his interest to join in the laugh.

He was now in the prime of life, and possessed a peculiar archness of disposition, with an uncommon flow of spirits, and an unparalleled contempt of danger; and though his conduct was long marked by a variety of similar tricks, yet he afterwards planned and brought to perfection several schemes, both of private and public utility.

When the Harrowgate season was over, Metcalf always remained a few days, and passed his evenings at one or other of the different inns. At the Royal Oak, now the Granby, he attracted the notice of the landlady's daughters, whose constant attention and kindness soon inspired him with a reciprocal affection. Knowing, however, that her mother would oppose their union, various successful devices were employed to conceal their mutual partiality, and frequent meetings. An event however occurred which obliged Metcalf to quit not only the object of his attachment, but likewise that part of the country.

Among Metcalf's acquaint

was one,  
whose

whose sister lived with them as housekeeper. One evening in her usual jocular way, she apprised Metcalf of her intention to pay him a visit in the night, desiring him to leave his door unlocked. Knowing the mirthful propensity of this female, he was inclined to consider this as a joke, but on the other hand he thought it possible that a real assignation might be intended, and being too gallant to disappoint a lady, he told her he would obey her orders. The lady was punctual to her appointment, and the consequence of her imprudence was evident in a few months. She intreated Metcalf to marry her, but she having made the first advances, he did not feel his conscience interested, and refused. Her only resource was to apply to the parish, which finding she had done, he with some difficulty obtained a meeting with Miss Benson of the Royal Oak, proceeded to Whitby, and went on board an alum-ship bound to London.

After an absence of seven months, he returned to Knaresborough, where he found the woman who had been the cause of his journey comfortably situated, and not inclined to trouble him; and he was also affectionately received by Miss Benson. During his absence a Mr. Dickinson had paid his addresses to Miss Benson, and now urged his suit with such ardour, that the banns were published, and the wedding-day appointed to the no small mortification of Metcalf, who thought himself secure of her affection. Though he loved her tenderly, his pride prevented him from manifesting his feelings, or attempting to prevent the match.

On the day preceding that on which the nuptials were to be solemnized, Metcalf riding past the Royal Oak, was accosted with, "One wants to speak with you." He immediately turned towards the stables of the Oak, and there to his joyful surprize, he found the object of his love, who had sent her mother's servant to call him.

After

After some explanation, an elopement was resolved upon, which Metcalf with the assistance of a friend, effected that night, and the next morning they were united.—The confusion of his rival, who had provided an entertainment for two hundred people may easily be conceived.

Mrs. Benson being much enraged at her daughter's conduct, refused either to see her or to give up her clothes; nor was she reconciled to her till she was delivered of her second child, on which occasion she stood sponsor to it, and presented Metcalf with twenty guineas.

He now purchased a house at Knaresborough, and continued to play at Harrowgate during the season. He likewise set up a four-wheel chaise, and a one-horse chair, for public accommodation, which were the first of the kind kept there. These vehicles he kept two summers, but the innkeepers beginning to run chaises, he relinquished that scheme, and with it racing and hunting. He then bought horses and went to the coast for fish, which he took to Leeds and Manchester, and was so indefatigable, that he would frequently walk for two nights and a day, with little or no rest. But the profits of this business being small, and the fatigue excessive, he soon abandoned that likewise.

At the commencement of the rebellion in 1745, he exchanged his situation as violin player at Harrowgate, for the profession of arms. This singular event was brought about in the following singular manner:—

William Thornton, Esq. of Thornville, having resolved to raise a company at his own expence, asked Metcalf, who was well known to him, whether he would join the company about to be raised, and whether he knew of any spirited fellows likely to make good soldiers. Upon his replying in the affirmative, he was appointed assistant to a sergeant.

one hundred and forty men, out of whom the Captain drafted sixty-four, the number of privates he wanted.

With this company, among whom was Metcalf as musician, Captain Thornton joined the army under General Wade. The first battle in which they were engaged, twenty of the men, the lieutenant and ensign were made prisoners, and Captain Thornton very narrowly escaped by the kindness of the woman in whose house he had taken refuge.

Metcalf, after a variety of adventures rejoined his patron, and was always in the field during the different engagements which afterwards occurred, and after the battle of Culloden, returned to his family at Knaresborough.

Being again at liberty to chuse his occupation, he attended Harrowgate as usual; and having, during his Scotch expedition, become acquainted with the various articles manufactured in that country, and judging that he might dispose of some of them to advantage in England, he repaired in the spring to Scotland, and furnished himself with a variety of cotton and worsted articles, for which he found a ready sale in his native country. Among a thousand articles he knew what each cost him, from a particular mode of marking them. He also dealt in horses, directing his choice, by feeling the animals; and engaged pretty deeply in the contraband trade, the profits of which were at that time much more considerable than the risk.

In the year 1751, he commenced a new employ, he set up a stage-waggon between York and Knaresborough, being the first on that road, and conducted it himself twice a week in the summer, and once in winter; and this business, with the occasional conveyance of army baggage, employed his attention till the period for his first contracting for the making of roads; which suiting him better, he relinquished every other pursuit.

During

During his leisure hours, he had studied measurement in a way peculiar to himself; and when certain of the girth and length of any piece of timber, he was able accurately to reduce its contents to feet and inches, and could bring the dimensions of any building into yards and feet.

The first piece of road he made was about three miles, of that between Fearnby and Minskip. The materials for the whole were to be procured from one gravel-pit; he therefore provided deal boards, and erected a temporary house at the pit, took a dozen horses to the place, fixed racks and mangers, and hired a house for his men at Minskip. He often walked from Knaresborough in the morning with four or five stone of meat on his shoulders, and joined his men by six o'clock. He completed the road much sooner than was expected to the entire satisfaction of the surveyor and trustees.

Soon after this he contracted for building a bridge at Borough-bridge, which he completed with great credit to his abilities. This business of making roads, and building and repairing bridges in Yorkshire, Lancashire, Derbyshire, and Cheshire, he continued, with great success till the year 1792, when he returned to Yorkshire.

In the summer of 1788, he lost his wife in the sixty-first year of her age, and the fortieth of their union, leaving four children. She was interred in the churchyard of Stockport, in Cheshire, where she then resided.

In his treatment of his wife, Metcalf never forgot the original difference in their circumstances, always indulging her to the utmost that his ability would allow; but she had no wish beyond his power to gratify.

After some unsuccessful speculations in the cotton trade, Metcalf returned to his native county, and without want of other engagements, he bought hay to sell again, measuring the stacks with his arms, and having learned



the height, he could readily tell what number of square yards were contained in a stack of any value between five and one hundred pounds. Sometimes he bought a little wood standing, and if he could get the girth and height, would calculate the solid contents.

In addition to the anecdotes already given of this singular character, the reader will not be displeased to find the following, which are of a nature equally extraordinary.

Metcalf had learned to walk and ride very readily through most of the streets of York; and being once in that city, as he was riding past the George, the landlord called to him to stop, and informed him that a gentleman in the house wanted a guide to Harrowgate, adding, "I know you can do as well as any one." To this proposal Metcalf agreed, upon condition that his situation should be kept secret from the gentleman who might otherwise be afraid to trust him. The stranger was soon ready, and they set off, Metcalf taking the lead. When they came to Allerton-Mauleverer, the gentleman enquired whose large house that was on the right, to which Metcalf replied without the least hesitation. A little farther the road is crossed by that from Wetherby to Borough-bridge, and runs along by the lofty brick wall of Allerton Park. A road led out of the park opposite to the gate upon the Knaresborough road, which Metcalf was afraid of missing; but perceiving the current of wind that came through the park gate, he readily turned his horse towards the opposite one. Here he was under some difficulty to open the gate, in consequence, as he imagined, of some alteration that had been made in the hanging of it, as he had not been that way for several months. Therefore, backing his horse, he exclaimed, "Confound thee, thou always goes to the heel of the gate instead of the head." The gentleman observed that his horse was rather awkward, but that his own

mare was good at coming up to a gate, upon which Metcalf cheerfully permitted him to perform that office. Passing through Knaresborough, they entered the Forest which was then uninclosed, nor was there as yet any turnpike road upon it. Having proceeded a little way upon the forest, the gentleman saw a light, and asked what it was. Metcalf took it for granted that his companion had seen what is called a Will-o'-the-Wisp, which frequently appear in a low and swampy spot, near the road; but fearful of betraying himself, did not ask in what direction the light lay. To divert his attention from this object, he asked him if he did not see two lights, one to the right, the other to the left. The stranger replied that he saw but one, on the right.—“Well then, Sir,” says Metcalf, “that is Harrowgate.”

Having arrived at their journey's end, they stopped at the house now called the Granby, where Metcalf, being well acquainted with the place, led both horses into the stable, and then went into the house, where he found his fellow traveller comfortably seated over a tankard of negus, in which he pledged his guide. Metcalf took it of him very readily the first time, but the second time he was rather wide of his mark. He therefore withdrew, leaving the landlord to explain what his companion was yet ignorant of.

The latter hinted to the landlord his suspicion that his guide must have taken a great quantity of spirits since their arrival, upon which the landlord enquired his reason for entertaining such an opinion.—“I judge so,” replied the traveller, “from the appearance of his eyes”—Eyes! bless you Sir! do not you know that he is blind?”—“What do you mean by that?”—“I mean Sir, that he cannot see.”—“Blind! gracious God!!”—“Yes, Sir, as blind as a stone, by heaven!”—The stranger desired Metcalf to be called, and upon his confirming the land-  
lord's

lord's account: "Had I known that," said he, "I would not have ventured with you for a hundred pounds."—"And I, Sir," said Metcalf, "would not have lost my way for a thousand."—The services of the evening were rewarded with two guineas, and a plentiful entertainment the next day by the gentleman, who considered this circumstance as the most extraordinary adventure he had ever met with.

During Metcalf's residence in London, he found out several gentlemen who were in the habit of visiting Harrowgate, and among the rest Colonel Liddell, Member of Parliament for Berwick, who gave him a general invitation to his house. This gentleman on his return from London to the North, was accustomed to make a stay of a few weeks at Harrowgate, and before his departure he proposed to Metcalf to take him down, either on the top of his carriage, or behind it. Metcalf declined the offer with thanks, assuring the Colonel, that he could with ease walk as far in a day as he would chuse to travel. They accordingly started on Monday at noon, and he actually arrived at the end of every stage before the Colonel, with whom he stopped during the night. On coming to Wetherby, he, as usual, arrived at the Inn before the Colonel, informing the landlord that he might expect the latter. This being Saturday night, the Colonel proposed halting at Wetherby till Monday, but Metcalf continued his route to Knarcsborough that night, and on the Monday he met him, according to promise, at Harrowgate.

Our hero happened once to be at Scriven, at the house of one Green, an innkeeper, where two persons had a dispute concerning some sheep, which one of them had put into the penfold. The owner of the sheep, a townsman of Metcalf's, appeared to be ill-treated by the other party, who wished to take an unfair advantage. Metcalf per-

ceiving that they were not likely to agree about the damages, departed. It being about midnight, he resolved to do his friend a good turn before he got home. The penfold being walled round, he climbed over, and laying hold of the sheep one after the other, he fairly threw them over the wall. The difficulty of the undertaking increased as the number diminished, as they were not so ready to catch; but not deterred by that circumstance, he fully completed the business. On the return of day, when the penfold was found untenanted, though the door was fast locked, a considerable degree of surprise was excited, and various conjectures formed relative to the rogues who had liberated the sheep, but Metcalf passed unsuspected, and enjoyed the joke in silence.

Passing once through Halifax, he stopped at an inn called the Broad Stone. The landlord's son, and some others who frequented Horrowgate, having heard of Metcalf's exploits, expressed a wish to play at cards with him. He complied, and a pack was accordingly sent for, which he requested permission to examine; but as the landlord was his friend, he could rely upon him to prevent any deception. They began, and Metcalf beat four of them in turn, playing for liquor only. Not satisfied with this, some of the company proposed to play for money, and at shilling-whist, Metcalf won fifteen shillings. The losing party then proposed to pay double or quit, but he declined playing for more than half-a-guinea points. At length yielding to their importunity, he engaged for guineas, and being favoured by fortune, he won ten, and a shilling for liquor each game. The loser taking up the cards, went out, and soon returned with eight guineas more, which soon followed the other ten.

Among the numerous roads which Metcalf continued to make, was part of the Manchester road from Black Moor

Moor to Standish-Foot. As it was not marked out, the surveyor, contrary to his expectation, took it over deep marshes, out of which it was the opinion of the trustees, that it would be necessary to dig the earth till they came to a solid bottom: This plan appeared to Metcalf extremely tedious and expensive, and liable to other disadvantages. He therefore argued the point privately with the surveyor, and several other gentlemen, but they were all immoveable in their former opinion. At their next meeting Metcalf attended, and addressed them in the following manner: "Gentlemen, I propose to make the road over the marshes after my own plan, and if it does not answer, I will be at the expence of making it over again after your's."—This proposal was agreed to. Having engaged to complete nine miles in ten months, he began in six different parts, having nearly four hundred men employed. One of the places was Pule and Standish Common, which was a deep bog, and over which it was thought impracticable to make any road. This he cast fourteen yards wide, and raised in a circular form. The water, which in many places ran across the road, he carried off by drains; but he found the greatest difficulty in conveying stones to the spot on account of the softness of the ground. Those who passed that way to Huddersfield Market, were not sparing of their censure of the undertaking, and even doubted whether it would ever be completed. Having, however, got the piece levelled to the end, he ordered his men to collect heather or ling, and bind it in round bundles that they could span with their hands. These bundles were placed close together, and another row laid over them, upon which they were well pressed down, and covered with stone and gravel. This piece, being about half a mile in length when compleated, was so remarkably fine, that any person might have gone over in winter unshod without being.

being wet; and though other parts of the road soon afterwards wanted repairing, this needed no repairs for twelve years.

Since his return to his native county, this extraordinary man has resided at Spofforth, near Wetherby, with a daughter and son-in-law who keep his house.

In perusing the above account, we are at a loss whether most to admire the wonderful versatility of Metcalf's genius, or the apparent facility with which he executed undertakings, for which the faculty he was bereft of seems absolutely indispensable. It is however probable, that, had he possessed the blessing of sight, his intellectual powers would never have attained that degree of perfection, which the abstraction from external objects has doubtless tended to promote.



*Extraordinary and interesting Accounts of the Restoration  
to Life of Persons supposed to be dead.*

**M. MISSON**, a French traveller, upon occasion of a picture in the Church of the Apostles at Cologne, gives the following account of the circumstance commemorated in it: Reichmuth Adolch, the wife of a Counsellor of Cologne, was supposed to have died of the plague, which, in 1571, swept away the greatest part of the inhabitants of that city. She was therefore interred, with a ring of considerable value on her finger. The night after the funeral, the sexton opened the grave, with the design of taking away the ring. His astonishment may be more easily conceived than described, when he felt something grasp his hand, and when the good lady laid fast hold of him, and exerted herself to get out of the coffin. He however disengaged himself, and fled with the utmost precipitation. The woman thus providentially

tially raised from the dead, quitted her disagreeable mansion, and proceeding to her own home, knocked at the door. She called one of the servants by his name, and related the circumstance as briefly as possible, that she might not be suffered to languish at the door; but the servant treated her as a phantom. He however ran in a fright to acquaint his master, who, equally incredulous, called him a madman. The poor woman, meanwhile, stood shivering in her shroud, waiting for admittance. At length the door was opened for her, and by means of proper treatment, she was restored to perfect health, and afterwards had three sons who were clergymen. She lived with her husband in great credit several years after this deliverance, and at her death, was interred near the gate of the church of the Apostles, where a monument was erected to her. In memory of the above extraordinary event, a large picture was placed over her grave, on which the story is pourtrayed, and a relation of it annexed in German.

It is evident that this story has given rise to the popular tradition relative to a monument near the Communion Table, in St. Giles's Cripplegate, which, however, is merely the monument of a young female half out of her coffin, intended to represent the resurrection.

Among other circumstances of a similar nature, the same author introduces the history of François de Civille, a Norman gentleman, who, according to his own expression, was "thrice dead, thrice interred, and thrice by the grace of God restored to life." The mother of Civille having died during pregnancy, in the absence of her husband, was interred without any means being employed to save the child. The day after the funeral her husband arrived; he heard with surprize of his wife's death, and the little care that had been taken to preserve his offspring. He had her taken up, and by means of  
the

the Cæsarean operation, a living child was extracted from her. This child was François de Cívile, who at the age of twenty-six years, was captain of a company of one hundred men in the city of Rouen when it was besieged by Charles IX. Being mortally wounded at the conclusion of an assault, and having fallen from the rampart into the ditch, some pioneers after stripping him of his clothes, threw him into a grave; together with another dead body, and covered him slightly with earth. Here he remained from eleven o'clock in the morning till half past six in the evening, when his servant came and dug him up. This faithful domestic, embracing the body of his master, perceived some signs of remaining life, and carried him to the house in which he used to lodge. There he lay five days and five nights without speaking, stirring, or shewing any sign of sense, but as hot from a fever as he had before been cold in the grave. The city being taken by assault, the servants of an officer of the victorious army who was to lodge in the house where Cívile was, threw him on a bundle of straw in a back room, where being found by some of his enemies, they threw him out of the window. He fortunately fell upon a dunghill, where he lay in his shirt more than three days and nights. Being then discovered by one of his relations, who was surprized to find him alive, he removed him to a place of safety about a league from Rouen, where he perfectly recovered from the injuries he had received.

The following extraordinary narrative is related by M. Bruhiér, in his "Dissertation on the Uncertainty of the signs of Death."

Two tradesmen of the Rue St. Honoré at Paris, connected by the most intimate friendship, of equal fortune, and following the same business, had each a child, one a son, and the other a daughter, nearly of the same age.

The



The first sentiments that taught the girl that she had a heart, convinced her at the same time that it belonged to the youth, who was equally attached to her. This reciprocal inclination was strengthened by their frequent mutual visits with the approbation of their parents, who observed with pleasure that the sentiments of their children accorded so completely with their own intentions. Their marriage was on the point of being celebrated, when the whole plan was destroyed by a rich banker, who demanded the young lady for his wife. The temptation of a much more brilliant fortune, suddenly changed the sentiments of her parents. Notwithstanding the repugnance to the match which their daughter testified, she, however, yielded to the intreaties of those to whom she owed her existence, married the banker, and, like a virtuous woman, forbade the young man whom she loved, her presence for ever. The melancholy into which she was plunged by the fatal engagement she had contracted, brought on a disorder which overpowered her senses in such a manner, that she was supposed to be dead, and was accordingly interred.

The lover was not the last to be informed of the melancholy fate of his mistress. Recollecting that she had formerly experienced a violent attack of lethargy, he flattered himself that her present situation might be nothing more, and this idea not only suspended his grief, but made him resolve to bribe the sexton, with whose assistance he took the deceased from her tomb, and carried her to his own house. He instantly employed every kind of means to restore her to life, and had the inexpressible happiness to find them attended with success.

It is easy to conceive how great was the astonishment of the lady, when she found herself in a strange house, when she beheld her lover by the side of her bed, and was acquainted with all that happened during her lethar-

low: viz. 36 tons of timber, 42 cords of wood, 200 park-pales, and four cords and a half of brackets. A bough broke off before the tree was felled, which weighed seven tons and a half. Two men were employed a month in stocking it. The tree was valued at 250l.

In March 1800, an ash-tree was cut down at Bronghton-Hall, near Shipton, which contained upwards of 500 feet of sound wood. The bole was 13 feet long, squared 3 feet 9 inches, and contained 182 feet of wood.

Dimensions of a fir tree called the *Duke*, cut down in September 1801, in his Grace the Duke of Gordon's wood, of Glenmore, by the Kingston Port Company:—  
Length in bole 52 feet.

|                                                            | Fect. |
|------------------------------------------------------------|-------|
| Measured at nine feet from the root, 39½ square inches, is | 93½   |
| Ditto at 33 feet from ditto, 28½ ditto                     | 182½  |
| Ditto at 42 feet, 19 ditto                                 | 2½    |
| Ditto one branch, 15 by 19 inches square                   | 37½   |
| Ditto, ditto 12 by 14 ditto                                | 16½   |

Foot 337

or, 9 tons, at 5l. per ton, is 45l. The tree was 370 years old, was perfectly sound, excepting a little at the top, and at the small end of the branches. It was cut down in three hours, by two Highland lads 18 years of age.



*Some Account of Mr. DANIEL LAMBERT, of Leicester, supposed to be the heaviest Man in England.*

MR. DANIEL LAMBERT, of whom we have annexed an engraved Representation, taken from life, may justly be considered one of the greatest prodigies at present existing in this country. He is about thirty-six years of age, of the common stature, being about five feet, seven or eight inches in height, and has attained the enormous weight of forty-nine stone twelve pounds, which is about half a hundred weight heavier than the celebrated

hanged; soon after which, the servant of a Canon of Cologne passed by the gallows. Perceiving a palpitation, he was touched with compassion, cut the cord, and revived his patient with some cold water procured from a neighbouring brook. The robber gradually recovered his strength, accompanied his deliverer, who was going to the next town, and, while conversing with him, he caught hold of the bridle of his horse, crying out the horse belonged to him, and that the servant had stolen the beast from him. This dispute attracted a great crowd, who in the indignation with which they were inspired, without hearing what the young man had to say in his justification, dragged him towards the gallows from which he had so lately released his accuser. Fortunately some of the inhabitants of the next town observing the concourse of people proceeding towards the place of execution, which belonged in common to both towns, approached to see what was the matter. The servant being then allowed to speak, related his adventure, and the manner in which he was rewarded for his kindness to the robber. The latter being recognised, was again tied up to the gallows, where he paid the just forfeit for his crimes.

About the year 1685, a miller in the vicinity of Abbeville, passing near the place where a robber, who had been hanged the preceding day, was exposed, imagined that he was not dead. An emotion of compassion produced a desire of ascertaining the truth of his suspicion, which was well founded; he took him down with the assistance of his carman, put him into his cart, and took him home. His endeavours to restore him to life were crowned with such success, that in a fortnight his new guest had recovered his perfect health. He intended to dismiss him with a sum of money, but unfortunately he neglected too long to execute this design, and one Sun-

day left him alone in the house. The wretch forgetting what he owed to his deliverer, took advantage of the opportunity, broke open a chest of drawers, and carried off all the plate and cash he could find. The miller upon his return perceived that he was robbed, and had no great difficulty to guess by whom, when he discovered that his patient had disappeared. He pursued the robber with his two sons and his carman. They overtook him about a league from the spot, and immediately carrying him back to the gibbet from which he had been released, they hung him up again, and pulled his legs with such violence as to prevent the repetition of similar crimes. The king's attorney for the bailiwick of Abbeville being informed of the circumstance, directed the miller and his accomplices to be taken into custody. They were however advised to abscond, till they should obtain the king's permission to return. The letters of recall granting this permission were prepared by M. Guisain, secretary to the king, by whose son and grandson this circumstance was communicated to M. Bruhier.



DREADFUL ACCIDENT, AND WONDERFUL PRESERVATION  
AT MILE-END.

A CALAMITY threatening more dreadful consequences to the lives of those involved in it, and yet productive of less personal injury than that which on the 16th of July 1804 happened in Duke Street, Mile End New Town, has rarely occurred. The foundation of two very old houses, No. 33 and 34, gave way, and the wretched inhabitants, consisting of eight poor families, were buried in the ruins. The time rendered this event more awful and distressing; it was about half past six in the morning, and the individuals were only asleep by the destructive crash of both houses,

asleep by  
sitting at  
the

the same time, threatened to cover them in one grave. The fronts of both houses fell into the street, but the party wall between remained standing; the beams which supported the floors likewise remained without falling; but the roofs, floors, joists, &c. fell into the cellar. The alarm in the neighbourhood, occasioned by the tremendous noise of the descending ruin, was sudden, and those who rushed to the spot at first imagined the premises to be on fire, as clouds of dust, which had the appearance of smoke, veiled the true calamity. A scene, however, soon presented itself that left no time for delay. The unfortunate victims were heard to utter the most doleful groans, and supplicate for assistance from beneath the ruins, and the neighbours with the utmost alacrity flew to their relief. They began by removing the upper beams and heavy timber, and listening with attention whence the voices issued, they released no less than thirty-six persons from their painful situations; most of them were naked, and many of them bruised in a dreadful manner; but, astonishing as it may appear, not one life was lost, nor any bones broken.

The following is a list of the sufferers :

No. 33.—Ground floor, Mrs. Jones and her two children.

In the one pair front, Mr. Foster and two children.—

Back room ditto, Mrs. Lambert and daughter.

Second floor front, Mrs. Lonnon and child.—Ditto back, Mrs. Shepherd and daughter.

Third floor, Royston, wife, and son.

No. 34.—Ground floor, William Box, wife, and three children.

One pair front, Tiffin, wife, and three children.

Ditto back, Nightingale and wife.

Two pair, Eagle (a sailor with one arm) and wife.

Ditto back, Mrs. Dornier, aged 95 years, being seven months bedridden, who was also taken to the workhouse,  
without

without receiving the smallest injury; and a Mrs. Hawkins, aged 74, who lived with her in the same room, likewise unhurt. The wife of Eagle, a sailor, had her breast and shoulder much-torn.

It was nearly twelve o'clock before the last was dug out of the ruins. One very remarkable circumstance was, a child of about six months old, after being above three hours buried in the rubbish, when taken out naked, and cleaned from the dust, smiled in the face of his deliver.—The feelings of nature manifested by different individuals on the occasion, are not unworthy of notice: One woman when rescued, exclaimed, "Where are my three children?" Box, the tenant of one of the houses, on being taken out, asked for his wife and children; and being told they were missing, resolutely rescued them himself though much wounded. Another person named Nicholson, after having escaped, supported a piece of timber in the most perilous situation, until his wife got out; after which the whole mass again gave way, and he was dreadfully wounded about the head and breast before he could be extricated. A woman who was delivered of a child the day before, received very little injury. The unfortunate sufferers were conveyed, within one hour after the accident, to the London Hospital and parish work-house. The bruises experienced by these poor people were but a part of their misfortunes: their small stock of cloaths and property was either pillaged or destroyed, and many of them were scarcely left in possession of sufficient to cover them.

The volunteers remained on duty the whole of the day. A Colonel of the ninth Loyal London Volunteers arrived there about eleven, and set a laudable example, by making a collection for the unhappy sufferers. He put 11. 8s. 6d. into the hands of Mr. John Gibben, landlord of the Halifax Head, who is one of the churchwardens of

f the parish, for their use and comfort. Jones, who is a Custom-house officer, was out on duty, and arrived in sight of his house just in time to see it fall.

The houses were originally built of old materials, and had stood thirty-eight years. The surveyor of the district as well as the landlord of the premises, gave notice to the inhabitants, some weeks before to quit, as their lives were not thought safe; and several of the poor sufferers, in consequence of that advice, had looked out for dwellings to remove to; but, failing of success, were under the necessity of remaining where they were.



TO THE EDITOR OF THE SCIENTIFIC AND WONDERFUL  
MUSEUM.

SIR,

I have transmitted you the following Memorandums of remarkable Trees, the produce of this Country, which I think merit preservation in your Miscellany; and as I have not seen any descriptions of the like nature in it, they will (I flatter myself) add to the pleasing variety of your very interesting Museum, and at the same time prove acceptable to the admirers of the singular productions of nature. If agreeable, I purpose sending a continuation of them for some future number of the Scientific Magazine.

Your Humble Servant,

NOTTINGHAM, July 1804.

D. B. L.

THERE is not perhaps at present, in this country, such an elm as was, in the year 1674, cut down in the park of Sir Walter Bagot in Staffordshire. The particulars recorded in the family are, that two men were five days in felling it; it measured 40 yards to the top in length; the stool was 15 yards 2 feet in circumference; 14 loads were broken in the fall, 48 loads were contained in the top; there were made out of it 80 pair of naves for wheels, and 8660 feet of boards and planks. It cost, at a time when labour was much lower rated than at present, 10l. 7s. for sawing. The whole substance was computed to weigh 97 tons. In May 1760, an oak was felled near Ludlow in Shropshire, the contents of which were as follow:

low: viz. 36 tons of timber, 42 cords of wood, 200 park-pales, and four cords and a half of brackets. A bough broke off before the tree was felled, which weighed seven tons and a half. Two men were employed a month in stocking it. The tree was valued at 250l.

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|                                                                        |                           |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Measured at nine feet from the root, $39\frac{1}{2}$ square inches, is | Fect.<br>95 $\frac{1}{2}$ |
| Ditto at 33 feet from ditto, $28\frac{1}{2}$ ditto                     | 182 $\frac{1}{2}$         |
| Ditto at 42 feet, 19 ditto                                             | 24                        |
| Ditto one branch, 15 by 19 inches square                               | 57 $\frac{1}{2}$          |
| Ditto, ditto 12 by 14 ditto                                            | 10 $\frac{1}{2}$          |

Foot 327

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celebrated Bright of Malden in Essex, whose waistcoat was so capacious, that seven men might be buttoned up in it. When seated, his thighs are so covered by his belly, that nothing but his knees are to be seen; while the flesh of his legs, which resemble stuffed pillows, projects in such a manner as nearly to bury his feet. Notwithstanding his extreme obesity, however, those who have seen this remarkable man, declare that his body and limbs from head to feet bear a very exact proportion to each other.

In his situation of keeper of the Bridewell at Leicester, Mr. Lambert evinces a humane and benevolent disposition. He is an intelligent man, reads much, and possesses great vivacity.

Till within the last three years, Mr. Lambert was very active in all the sports of the field, and though his excessive corpulence now prevents him from partaking in them, he still keeps dogs to which he is extremely attached. He was likewise noted as an excellent swimmer, and as a celebrated feeder of cocks.

The following anecdote is related of him:—Some time since a man with a dancing bear, going through the town, one of Mr. Lambert's dogs taking a dislike to his shaggy appearance, made a violent attack upon the defenceless animal. Bruin's master did not fail to take the part of his companion, and, in his turn, began to belabor the dog. Lambert being a witness of the fray, hastened with all possible expedition from the seat or settle (on which he makes a practice of sitting at his own door,) to rescue his dog. At this moment the bear, turning round suddenly, threw down his unwieldy antagonist, who from terror, and his own weight, was absolutely unable to rise again, and with difficulty got rid of his formidable opponent.

Mr. Lambert much disliked to let his weight be known,  
VOL. II. F F F and

and frequently objected to being weighed for that purpose. Going, however, one day to a cocking match at Loughborough in a carriage, into which he was obliged to get sideways; by a preconcerted plan of some of his friends, he was taken over a weighing machine, and thus, to his no small mortification, it was ascertained with the utmost facility.

We understand that, as it has lately been resolved to transfer the business of the Bridewell to the county goal, Mr. Lambert is about to retire from a situation in which he has given such satisfaction, that the town of Leicester has voted him a pension.

*Farther Account of the CAMELEON, containing a Correction of several vulgar Errors; with Experiments on the wonderful Properties of that animal, by M. GOLBERY.*

**TOWARDS** the end of the year 1786, I made a collection of several cameleons, of all sizes and ages, and I derived pleasure from observing them with attention.

The first object of my curiosity was the nature and variety of colours which this animal was capable of assuming; and I soon convinced myself that the cameleon does not adopt the colours of the objects which surround or cover it; that the changes to which its natural colour is subject, are owing only to the painful affections which this animal internally experiences, and of which it is susceptible in a singular degree.

Its natural colour is that of the finest green emerald; and this hue I always observed it to possess when in a state of liberty, and perched like a parrot on the branch of some young tree, ornamented with beautiful foliage, among which it cannot be perceived or distinguished without difficulty, no more than when it creeps, or lies carelessly among the verdant herbage.

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At this time it is not only of the finest emerald green, but it is likewise most healthy and corpulent. A state of liberty, and the privilege of living among grass, or flourishing trees, appeared to me two indispensable circumstances for maintaining the beautiful green colour of the cameleon, as well as its general healthy appearance.

From the moment that the liberty and security of this reptile were troubled or restricted, I could perceive alterations in the freshness and brilliancy of its colour, and in the plumpness of its whole body. When I kept my cameleons in a cage, and plagued or tormented them, I saw that they laboured under anguish and rage, which they expressed by expiring the air so strongly, that its force became audible, soon after which these animals grew lean, and their fine colour was tarnished. On continuing to torment them, the dull green became a yellow green and afterwards a yellow, spotted with red; then a yellow-brown, spotted with red-brown; next a brown-grey, marked with black: at length my cameleons adopted different shades, and became gradually thinner. These were the only colours I could make them assume.

After I had thus tormented them, and kept them prisoners for several days, I used to set them at liberty. I conveyed them to the grass, or a tree, and notwithstanding their black and meagre appearance, they resumed their green colour and their corpulence.

I often wrapped my cameleons, in white, red, blue, violet, purple, and green stuffs, in which I left them whole days together, and on visiting my poor prisoners, I found that they had assumed none of those colours, but were always of a yellow green, dull yellow, or blackish grey, which are those they always assume when in distress or pain.

The skin of the cameleon is of a very fine and delicate texture; it is extremely soft and cold to the touch, and

when observed with a magnifying glass of considerable power, on the living animal, it appeared like a shagreen. But though so very fine and supple, it is not glossy; yet the little points or eminences upon it may be said to be imperceptible, as they can scarcely be distinguished by the naked eye. It is exceedingly tenacious, and possesses a great portion of elasticity as well as the faculty of expanding and contracting to a considerable degree.

It is doubtless to this contexture of the skin, that we must attribute the facility with which the *cameleon* changes its colour, according to the degree of dilatation or contraction which it undergoes; and it is equally certain that those sudden changes in the animal which astonish us so much, are derived from the same cause.

The *cameleon* however possesses a much more extraordinary faculty than the changing of colour, that of dilating and contracting itself at pleasure. The cause of its expansion is the air which it inspires: for this air does not remain in its breast, stomach, or intestines, but penetrates through every part of its body so generally and completely that its whole frame is filled, even to the extremities of its feet and tail, as well as its eyes, which are then more full and projecting.

This facility of imbibing air must be very great, because I observed my *cameleons*, after being several days in a declining or decaying state, recover their flesh, and re-expand to the utmost degree in a short space of time; and I have likewise seen them remain fat and bloated for a fortnight together, soon after which they become so contracted, as apparently to be nothing but skin and bones.

But it must not be imagined, that in its state of health the *cameleon* merely resembles a skin filled with air; on the contrary, it appears fat, and its flesh is naturally distributed over every part of its body.

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In its last degree of contraction, when this animal has almost entirely voided its air, and retains only the quantity necessary for the preservation of its vital faculties, the extreme leanness of its body is astonishing; and it appears extraordinary, that when the animal moves, or in particular when it turns, it resembles an empty sack that has been twisted up.

Wishing to ascertain to what degree the camelion is capable of carrying the faculty attributed to it, of living upon air, and existing a length of time without eating; at the end of the year 1786, at Isle St. Louis, in the Senegal, I subjected my camelions, being seven in number, and in a state of perfect health, to the experiments which I wished to make and describe.

I inclosed five of these animals in separate cages of iron wire, which were covered with a very fine gauze, but of such a close texture, that no insect could pass through it. I suspended my cages by means of cords and pullies to the ceiling of my chamber; the cords of all these little prisons being tied together, and placed in a wooden box that was fixed to the wall and locked. With this precaution, I was sure that nobody could let down my cages, that my camelions could receive no food, and that they were condemned to the most perfect abstinence. I numbered my cages with the figures 1, 2, 3, 4 and 5.

It was on the first of November that I began my experiments; I visited my unfortunate prisoners, who were destined to perish of hunger, four times in every twenty-four hours. In a few days they became meagre, and turned to a blackish grey colour, which was a certain sign of their distress; but having arrived at a great degree of leanness, they remained in the same state for the space of a month, without my being able to perceive that they suffered any very evident diminution of their strength.

The cages in which I had confined them were fifteen inches

inches high, and were crossed by little sticks in the middle, like the perches in bird-cages.

Whenever I let down my cages, for the purpose of observing my cameleons, they opened their mouths, and expired the air strongly at me; these expirations were very perceptible, and could be distinctly heard.

During the first six weeks, my prisoners moved about their cages, from the top to the bottom. In the morning I generally found them at the top, but after the above-mentioned period, I remarked that they did not ascend so high; and in short, at the end of two months, they no longer quitted the bottoms of their cages; their leanness became extreme, their weakness and languor were very perceptible, their skin was almost black, and I observed a heaviness in the motion of their eyes. They, however, retained the faculty of swelling themselves up, but only to about half their usual size; their bodies were never filled, and speedily became contracted.

By the first day of January, they had arrived at such a degree of leanness, that they were nothing more than animated skeletons, and I was convinced they could not long exist. Nevertheless No. 3 which died first, did not expire till the 28th of January; No. 1, died on the 30th of the same month; No. 4, expired in the night of the 13th of February, and No. 5 withstood the punishment of hunger till the 23d of February, on the morning of which day it fell a victim. No. 2, continued alive on the 24th of February, but was so feeble and exhausted, that I believed it to be near the period of its existence; I was then inclined to release it, without, however, hoping that it could live. It had subsisted upon air three months, and twenty-four days at the time I delivered it from imprisonment. I took it to the garden, where I set it at liberty, and in a fortnight it had acquired colour and strength, and even begun to re-fill itself.

On the 30th of March, it was of a green colour, but still pale, and had perfectly recovered the faculty of expansion. Its health and strength appeared to me to be entirely restored in the month of April; but towards the end of that month it escaped, and my endeavours to find it were unsuccessful, so that I was not able to ascertain whether the health of my cameleon was really and completely re-established; but doubtless the long abstinence which it underwent must have abridged the duration of its life.

It now remains for me to notice the eyes of the cameleon, which are covered with a membrane, that serves instead of eye-lids. This membrane is like a case, perforated in the middle by a longitudinal hole, about a line wide in the largest part. Through this orifice the animal sees and exposes to view a brown pupil, bordered by a small gold circle, and extremely bright and shining.—This case possesses the faculty of following all the motions of the eye, in which respect it differs entirely from the common organization of the eye-lids of other animals. In the present case the motions of the eye-lid so exactly correspond with those of the eye, that they are absolutely one, and the same; and in all the motions the little aperture of the eye-lid answers in every respect to the central point of the pupil. But what is still more singular, and I believe peculiar to this animal is the faculty of moving its eyes in every possible direction, and wholly independent of each other. The cameleon moves one of its eyes, while the other remains motionless; with one he looks before, and with the other behind, or one is turned up towards the sky, while the other looks down at the ground. These contrary motions are executed together with a prodigious rapidity, or alternately with still more astonishing quickness; and they are carried to such a degree, that the pupil even passes under the projection  
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which serves for the eye-brow, and likewise buries itself suddenly in the corner of the orbit; so that the animal readily, and at the same time, discovers objects situated both behind and before, without in the least degree moving his head, which is closely confined to his shoulders.

These rapid evolutions give the animal the facility of seeing at once in every direction, and of constantly observing whatever passes around. The object of this conformation is doubtless the security of the cameleon, and to enable it to catch the small insects and flies upon which it feeds.

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*Description of the TERMITE, a curious African insect, and
Account of the wonderful Nests it constructs.*

We have long been taught to regard with admiration the extraordinary industry, the amazing ingenuity, and the internal regulations and economy of the commonwealth of bees; but here we find an insect whose labours are not only far more wonderful than theirs, but compared with which the most celebrated monuments of human industry dwindle into insignificance.

THE Termite is found in almost all the western regions of the African Continent, between Cape Bojador, and Cape Blanco. Linnæus describes this insect by the name of *Termes*, but it is commonly known by the denomination of the white ant. These little animals afford the observer many subjects of astonishment. They effect, in a moment, inconceivable destruction, and erect monuments of such prodigious magnitude and solidity, that, if compared with the extraneous smallness of the insects by which they are constructed, they appear far more wonderful than the productions of human industry.

Of this kind of insects naturalists are acquainted with four species. The first is distinguished by the name of the Belligerent Termite, and is the largest species. The nests of these animals are large handsome pyramids, fifteen or sixteen feet in height and

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earth, and as many below it. The second species is the Atrocious Termite, whose nests are likewise of a pyramidal form, but neither so lofty nor extensive as the former. Its ravages, however, are more fatal, and its punctures more painful and dangerous. The Biting Termite forms the third species, and constructs its nest in the form of a cylindrical turret, four feet high, and one in diameter. The turret is covered with a conical roof which projects some inches over, and beyond the building, the object of which is doubtless to prevent it from being injured by rain. The fourth species is termed by naturalists the Destroying Termite, and constructs spherical nests round the branch of a tree, which passes intirely through them.

As the manners of all these species are nearly the same, we shall confine ourselves to a more particular account of the first, which is in every respect the most remarkable.

The termites are divided into societies, each society builds a nest, and each nest belongs to an innumerable quantity of these insects, who are subject to a king and queen. These, like many other insects pass through several stages of existence before they arrive at the state of a perfect animal.

The first state of the life of the termites, is that of larvæ, when the insect is not more than two lines in length. It is then of a white colour, has six legs, three on each side, a small head without eyes, antennæ composed of small globules joined together, and tapering to the extremity, with small jaws. The larvæ are charged with all the labour of building, and with the care of the provisions, and it is they that reduce to an impalpable powder the most enormous trees, and the strongest pieces of timber. In this state of the termite insect, it would be the plague of Africa, if those extraordinary

powers of devastation with which these larvæ are indued, were not directed to a useful end.

These blind animals never attack green and healthy wood, but only that which being in a state of decay, tends but to impede vegetation, and the circulation of the air in the vast forests of Africa. It is these larvæ which likewise devour the enormous animals that die in the centre of those solitary forests, either of old age, by accident, or of the wounds they receive in the battles that continually take place between them. The putrid exhalations of these large carcasses would probably infect the continent of Africa, if the instinct of the termites did not speedily effect their destruction.

The second state is that of the chrysalis. In this, as in the former state, the insects are blind; the head is larger, and is provided with long pointed jaws without teeth. It is the chrysalids that are charged with all the labour and the œconomy of the nests; it is they that compel the larvæ to work, and that construct all the interior recesses in which the eggs are deposited. They are likewise the nurses and the warriors of the community. The larvæ do not fight, nor are they armed for battle; the chrysalids are therefore charged with the defence of the state; they repel external attacks, and oppose the daring invader of their peaceful habitations, biting him with the utmost fury.

The termites, at length arrive at their perfect state, when they have wings and fly off in innumerable quantities. It is only in this third state that they are of different sexes, and are capable of propagating their species. After the last transformation into winged insects, they are pursued with great avidity by the birds. Their wings soon become dry, they drop down, and cover the surface both of the earth and waters. In some parts they are collected by the negroes and eaten.

We are not acquainted with the duration of the whole life of the termite; in its winged state it does not live more than two days. Towards the evening of the second day they lose their strength, and these little animals, so active and industrious in the state of larvæ and chrysalids, become feeble, stupid, and incapable of resisting the smallest insects; they suffer themselves to be taken even by the ants, and to be dragged to their nests without opposition.

All the winged termites however do not perish in this dreadful destruction. The king and queen, whose business it is to propagate their species are winged termites, and some pairs of them, at the moment of the universal ruin of the third class, are found by the larvæ, and carried off for the purpose of founding new colonies. Being conveyed either to an old or newly constructed nest, they are there inclosed in a large cell, which is the royal chamber or nuptial prison. They are fed by the larvæ and chrysalids, lose their wings, and pass their lives in perfect indolence, being apparently destined only for the propagation of their species. The length of the king never exceeds four lines, but the queen grows to the comparatively enormous size of five inches.

Sparman asserts, that the queen lays sixty eggs in a minute, which makes eighty-six thousand, four hundred eggs in twenty-four hours. Whether this process be continued has not yet been ascertained; but the infinite multitude of termites that are every where seen in Africa, are sufficient to induce a belief that the laying is perpetual.

The following is the account of the pyramids or nests constructed by the belligerent termites, as given by a late intelligent traveller, M. Golbery.

"I took a ride," says he, "one morning at sun-rise, followed by my black servant and interpreter, and ac-

accompanied by Sonkoary, a relation of the king of Barra, (on the river Gambia), and presumptive heir of that little kingdom. The object of my ride was to visit the wood Lamaya, situated to the west of Albreda, and about two miles from that village.

"This wood, which is above two leagues in circumference, is composed of trees of the largest species, the leaves of which resemble those of the plane-tree. They are all very old, and upwards of fifty feet distant from each other. Their superb heads touch and intermix, forming a dome, which is the more beautiful, because the trunks being free from branches to the height of sixty feet, have the appearance of noble columns.

"On approaching this wood, I was much astonished to perceive a number of pyramids, ten, fifteen, and even sixteen feet high, of a red colour, exactly similar to that of well-burned brick.

"The size and form of these constructions caused me to imagine that they were sepulchral monuments erected to the memory of the ancient Manding warriors at Barra, till I enquired of my interpreter. Sonkoary replied that these edifices were the work of the termites, and the nests of those insects which swarmed in every part of the forest. I quickened my pace, and arrived at the wood of Lamaya, being anxious to observe with attention the astonishing labours of an insect with which I was unacquainted till I resided in Africa.

"I could scarcely conceive how these diminutive animals were capable of erecting such extraordinary edifices; there were upwards of forty pyramids, three hundred, and in some instances five hundred paces distant from each other, rising ten, twelve and even sixteen feet above the soil; their bases were all from one hundred to one hundred and twenty feet square. These monuments appeared to me as surprizing as the pyramids of Memphis,

Memphis, and even more so, because they were the work of an insect.

“ There are long galleries leading to the interior of these pyramids, and these galleries contain an immense number of cells in form resembling the inside of half of a very small nut-shell. These cells, are wainscotted, being internally lined with small filaments of wood, about the thickness of a hair, which are joined and fixed with great art by the side of each other. These when viewed through a magnifying glass, have the appearance of a floor formed of small rushes glued and dove-tailed to each other. In this manner the whole interior surface of each cell is covered; and it can only be by means of a substance perfectly glutinous, that the insect can unite with such neatness and solidity the minute filaments it employs to line the inside of its nurseries.

“ It would be both curious and philosophical to compare the pyramids of the wood of Lamaya, the admirable work of very small insects, to the pyramids of Egypt, the boasted productions of human industry.

“ From this comparison, it is evident that the Egyptian pyramids are far inferior in magnitude to those of the wood of Lamaya, when we consider the relative proportions of their respective architects. The highest of the pyramids of Ghiza is not above four hundred and fifty feet in height, and supposing the stature of the Egyptians to be only five feet (which is far below the ordinary height of man) the proportion of the largest of the Egyptian pyramids to a man of five feet, would only be as four hundred and fifty to five, or ninety to one.

“ It has been already observed, that the termite larvæ are the builders and masons of their empire, and that their length is not more than three lines. Consequently the highest of the pyramids in the wood of Lamaya, which was seventeen feet above the ground, when compared

pared to the termite larvæ, will be as two thousand four hundred and forty-eight to three, or eight hundred and sixteen to one.

“The pyramids of Lamaya are, therefore, in a relative proportion, infinitely higher than those of Egypt, and if we consider the masses, and the time respectively employed in the constructions, together with the great number of these pyramids of the termites, that exist in Africa, we shall be compelled to admire the powers which the Creator has granted to one of the smallest of insects, and to view with a more modest eye, those celebrated monuments of ancient Egypt, the description of which is so flattering to the pride of man.”

CURIOUS PRODUCTIONS OF ART.

THE great bell in Lincoln cathedral, called Tom of Lincoln, measures twenty-two feet eight inches in circumference, weighs nearly five tons, and will hold four hundred and twenty-four gallons, ale measure.

At Erfurt in Germany, there is a bell, reckoned one of the largest in Europe. It weighs upwards of twelve tons; is nearly eleven feet in height, and as many yards in circumference. It is said that its sound may be heard at the distance of twenty-four miles.

Among the curiosities of Strasburg cathedral, are two large bells, one of which is of brass, and weighs ten tons; the other is of silver, and is said to weigh above two tons.

In the Academy of Sciences at Petersburg, is a repeating watch, about the size of an egg; within is represented our Saviour's tomb, with the stone at the entrance, and

and the centinels guarding it. While the spectator is admiring this curious piece of mechanism, the stone is suddenly removed, the angels appear, the women enter the sepulchre, and the same chant is heard which is performed in the Greek church on Easter Eve.

At Lucern in Switzerland, is to be seen a topographical representation of the most mountainous part of that country, the workmanship of General Pfiffer, a native of the above town. It is a model twelve feet in length, and nine and a half in breadth. The materials of which it is made are principally a composition of charcoal, lime, clay, and pitch, with a thin coat of wax. It is so hard, that it may be trodden upon without sustaining any injury. The whole is painted with different colours, representing the objects as they appear in nature, and it is particularly worthy of observation, that not only the woods of oak, beech, pine, and other trees, are accurately distinguished, but the figures of the rocks are likewise preserved, each being shaped upon the spot, and formed of granite, gravel, calcareous stone, or such other substance as compose the original mountains. The elevations are taken from the level of the lake of Lucern, and the plan is so minutely exact, that it comprehends not only all the mountains, lakes, towns, villages, and forests, but likewise every cottage, stream, road, and even foot-path, is distinctly represented. In 1791, when this monument of patient ingenuity was examined by Count Stollberg, it contained a miniature of an extent of country equal to two hundred and twenty square leagues.

Dr. Oliver informs us, that in Holland an English gentleman once shewed him a cherry-stone, with one hundred and twenty-four heads engraven upon it, and all so perfect that the naked eye might distinguish those of
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kings, popes, cardinals, &c. by their crowns and mitres. This curiosity was bought in Prussia, for three hundred pounds, and is said to have been the workmanship of a poor wretch in prison at Dantzick.

In the Royal Museum at Copenhagen, a stone of the same kind is preserved, on which are engraved two hundred and twenty heads, but they are so small as to appear imperfect and confused.

Account of the horrid Murder of a whole Family at Petersburg, and Description of the cruel Punishment inflicted on the Perpetrator.

ABOUT the beginning of the winter of 1803—4, the public attention at Petersburg was much engaged by one of the most atrocious murders ever heard of: a whole family were found massacred in their sleep, in the suburbs of Petersburg. A man and his wife lay in bed with their heads nearly cut off, a subaltern officer lay stretched on the floor in the same state; near the door was a boy about twelve years of age, who probably having attempted to escape, was beheaded and cruelly mangled; in a cradle was found a child nearly frozen to death, and upon a table in the room were seen a pack of cards, an empty brandy bottle, and a few pieces of copper.

It was about four days after the murder before the discovery was made, when his Imperial Majesty attended in person, and saw the horrid spectacle, frozen into one mass of ice; he threatened the police with severe consequences if the assassins were not apprehended in 48 hours, gave 100 rubles for the relief of the infant, and promised a thousand for the discovery of the offenders.

By the following day, 147 persons were taken into custody, and among them the villain w I been gull-
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ty of the crime. He was a carpenter, who had worked in the neighbourhood, and having heard that the people possessed a small sum of money, went one evening to beg a lodging, when, after having regaled them with brandy, he took an opportunity when they were all asleep, to treat them in the manner above related, robbed the house of about one hundred rubles, fastened the windows, having fixed a padlock on the door, and walked off unnoticed. On the Saturday morning following, about ten o'clock, he was conducted to the place of execution. First went the police master, then a posse of police officers on horseback, two and two, four ranks of foot soldiers, twelve deep, behind the last rank was the murderer, on each side of him marched a soldier with a drawn sabre; on his right and left twelve others with fixed bayonets.

He was a tall handsome young man, about twenty-six years of age, about six feet high, dressed in a blue coat, resembling that of a blue-coat boy; he was accompanied by two others, who were to suffer for forgery, with the executioner carrying the knoots tied up in canvas, and about six ranks of foot soldiers closed the rear. The physiognomy of the murderer was such as would have staggered even Lavater himself; his countenance was open and honest, nor had he the least appearance of possessing so base a heart.

The stake prepared for him was a strong block of wood, fixed in the ground, with three grooves at the top, and two rings near the bottom: the middle groove was for the neck, and the two others for the arm pits, the rings below to lock round the ancles; about the stakes were laid coarse skins, especially where the knoot-master trod, upon which lay his whips, marking-irons, pincers, &c. An officer then read a paper to the people, signifying that forgery upon the Imperial bank being a capital crime,

and two of the prisoners convicted of it, were condemned to receive eleven blows of the knoot, to have their nostrils pulled out, and be banished for life to Siberia: the murderer of so many persons to receive 399 blows, to be branded three times in the face, have his nostrils pulled out, and (if then alive) be banished for life to the mines of Siberia.

The executioner and his assistants then stripped him, tied his hands across, and led him to the post; after fixing his ankles, they bent his neck and arms over it, and drew the rope with which his hands were tied through the ring on the opposite side, which seemed to stretch all the muscles of the back. He then retired about four or five yards from him, and taking up one of the knoots, worked it with his hand to give it a proper elasticity. Walking towards the criminal with four or five steady steps, then taking a spring, he struck a perpendicular stroke with a heavy, loud crack. The first stroke cut from the right side of the bottom of the neck to the left arm-pit. The effect was visible in a moment, and by the violence of his screams afforded reason to suppose that the pain was very great; the second was about half an inch below the first, and so on till 25, when changing the whip, the operator erased the former wounds, striking from the left side to the right, and afterwards quite perpendicular. The strokes were given with the greatest regularity; between each a person might deliberately count eight, the executioner always walking slowly to and from the stake.

His cries were now so terrible, that some of the spectators were obliged to turn their backs, and put their fingers in their ears. All were quiet and silent, and the crack of the knoot was heard to a great distance. After receiving 300 lashes the culprit's voice grew faint, and during the last 100 he shewed no signs of life whatever, the whole of the upper part of the back being beaten to
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a black mummy. After the last blow the assistants lifted up the face by the hair, and the executioner struck him forcibly three times with an instrument that left the initial of murderer, throwing each time an handful of black dust into the wound; after which, at two pulls, he tore the gristle of his nose, and loosened him from the block. The whole lasted about three quarters of an hour, and it was generally thought that he had been dead some time; however, he made a feeble attempt to put on his coat, and recovered sufficiently to be able to make some reparation to society by working the iron mines.



ORIGIN OF THE NAME OF PEDLAR'S ACRE.

ON the Surry side of Westminster bridge, opposite Stangate, is a place called Pedlar's Acre, traditionally said to take its name from the following extraordinary circumstance: A travelling Pedlar accompanied by a favourite dog, seated himself on this spot to take some rest and refreshment. At this period there were no houses on the place, nor any nearer than the neighbourhood of Lambeth, which was a more considerable place of trade than at present, in consequence of the ferry from Westminster for passengers, carriages, horses, &c. the name on the Middlesex side still retaining that of the Horse-ferry Road. The pedlar during his repast observed his dog busily employed in scratching up the earth near where he sat, nor could he by any means withdraw the animal's attention from his pursuit, until he discovered a treasure in gold and silver to a considerable amount, which when the man had secured, he satisfied his brute attendant. The pedlar proceeded to the first house he could find, and enquired out the owner of the land, to whom he soon introduced himself, and made a bargain

bargain for the ground, which from that time he called Pedlar's Acre. With the remainder of his money he built several houses on the place, and from a pedlar became a considerable merchant. Tradition adds, that on several occasions he was a liberal benefactor to the poor and parish of Lambeth, and that the memory of so singular an event might be known to posterity, he by will, left the land called after him to Lambeth parish, on condition they should perpetuate his story, by placing in one of the windows of their church, his effigy in his pedlar's dress, attended by his faithful dog painted on glass, which remain to the present hour in the south east window.

Whether or not the legend is fabulous, it is impossible after such a lapse of time to ascertain.—Success in peddling might have enabled the man to have accomplished an independence; but it is certain, however he obtained it, whether by industry or chance, he himself conceived his success extraordinary. Thus far goes the popular story, handed about by tradition in the neighbourhood.—A very different account is given by a celebrated antiquarian, though we should by no means discredit on every occasion popular tradition, because an inquisitive mind cannot always find authentic documents to establish or contradict it. The Church authority and antiquarian opinion says:—

At the bottom of the middle compartment of the south east window, over the pulpit, is painted, on a pane 24 inches by 16, the portrait of a pedlar and his dog. This is first mentioned by Mr. Aubrey, and copied from him into Maitland's London. The tradition of the parish, that the pedlar gave them Pedlar's Acre, in Lambeth Marsh, for leave to bury his dog in their churchyard, is too idle to be repeated. Bishop Gibson, who was rector of the parish at the time he was collecting materials

materials for his edition of Camden's Britannia, takes no notice of this painting, though he mentions the story of Dog Smith, who died 1627, aged 79, and left nothing to Lambeth parish till 1626. There is no obligation on the parish to repair this pane, though it appears to have been repaired by orders of Vestry in 1610. The piece of ground called Pedlar's Acre adjoins to the river, and lies near the east end of the Surry abutment of Westminster bridge. It contains by admeasurement one acre 17 poles, and was held in 1773, of the parish by Mr. Wells. It does not appear among the benefactions in any of the registers. The parish were in possession of it 1504, at which time the rent arising from it was applied to the repairs of the church; and in the churchwardens' accounts of that year, it is called the church hoopys, or hope, which name it retained till 1623, when it assumed that of the church oziers; though sometimes, and more frequently, it went by that of the church hope, till 1690, when in a lease of it, dated August 6, it is for the first time called Pedlar's Acre, Hope, or Hoope, signifies an isthmus or neck of land projecting into the river, or an inclosed piece of low meadow or marsh land. The different rents which this piece of ground has let for, are as follow:

			<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>				<i>l.</i>	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
1505	-	-	0	2	8	1564	-	-	0	13	4
1516	-	-	0	4	0	1581	-	-	1	6	8
1520	-	-	0	6	0	1651	-	-	4	0	0
1521	-	-	0	5	0	1705	-	-	4	0	0
1556	-	-	0	6							

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more than double.

Contiguous to Pedlar's Acre there were formerly two other pieces of land called the Maidens' and Archbishops' Acres,

Acres, whence it is presumed that Pedlars' Acre was so called only to distinguish it from the others; but the conjecture is certainly strained, and far-fetched. At the Royal Circus, St. George's Fields, has recently been produced, an excellent pantomime on his story, in which the subject is founded entirely on the traditional account.

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*Account of the Life and extraordinary Adventures of  
HANNAH SNELL, with her Portrait.*

If, in the course of the following narrative, the reader should meet with circumstances which appear to trespass on the limits of credibility, we trust he will not impute it to any desire on our part to mislead. The particulars here recorded are compiled from the most authentic materials that could be procured, and each is at liberty to attach that degree of credit to them which he may think they deserve.

**HANNAH SNELL** was born in Fryers Street, in the city of Worcester, on the 23d of April 1723. Her grandfather embracing the military profession, served under William III. and Queen Anne, and terminated his career at the battle of Malplaquet, where he received a mortal wound.—Her father was a hosier and dyer, and had a family of three sons and six daughters, of whom our heroine was the youngest but one.

In the year 1740, having lost her father and mother, Hannah removed to London, where she for some time resided with one of her sisters, married to a Mr. Gray, carpenter, in Ship Street, Wapping. Soon after her arrival in the metropolis, she became acquainted with a Dutch seaman, named James Summs, who paid his addresses to her, and they were married on the 6th of January, 1748. It was not long, however, before she found herself miserably deceived in the opinion she had formed of her husband. He abandoned her company for that of women of the lowest description, with whom he squandered the  
little



G.Scott.Sol

HANNAH SNELL,  
*The Female Soldier &c*

*Pub<sup>d</sup> Aug<sup>r</sup> 1<sup>o</sup> 1760 by R.A. Kirby London, Horse Yard & J. Scott Strand*

being frequently in each other's company, the jealousy of Davis was excited, and gave birth to the desire of revenge. He accordingly seized an early opportunity of charging his supposed rival before the commanding officer with neglect of duty; and she was sentenced to receive six hundred lashes. Five hundred, we are told, were inflicted, but the remaining hundred were remitted in consequence of the intercession of some of the officers.

This cruel punishment was not sufficient to satisfy the resentment of the jealous Davis; he omitted no opportunity to mortify her, and to put her on such duties as he knew to be disagreeable or difficult. For this ill usage she however found some compensation in the increased affection of her female friend.

Not long after the above unhappy occurrence, another cause of uneasiness appeared. A fresh recruit, a native of Worcester, by trade a carpenter, and who had lodged in the house of her brother-in-law, having joined the regiment, she became justly apprehensive of a discovery of her sex, and her uneasiness increased to such a degree, that she at length resolved to desert. Having taken every possible precaution, she repaired to her female acquaintance, and informed her of her design. The latter endeavoured to dissuade her from such a dangerous enterprise; but finding that her resolution was fixed, she furnished her with money; and Hannah having taken leave of her affectionate friend, immediately commenced her journey on foot for Portsmouth. About a mile from Carlisle, perceiving some people employed in picking peas, and their clothes lying at some distance, she exchanged her regimental coat for one of the old coats belonging to the men, and proceeded on her journey.

Arriving at Liverpool, Hannah stopped at a small public house, where she acted the gallant, and considered Boniface jealous of his wife. A battle was the consequence.



in which the supposed gallant so completely drubbed her host, that he was obliged to keep his bed next day. From this place she suddenly decamped, and proceeded to Chester, where what she had obtained from the landlady at Liverpool enabled her to appear in a more genteel style.

At Chester she took lodgings in a private house, in which likewise resided a young mantua-maker, with whom she soon contrived to ingratiate herself. She pushed her suit with much ardour, till at length on some pretence she obtained five guineas of the unsuspecting female, and then thought it time to leave Chester.

In an intrigue in which she engaged with a widow at Winchester, our gallant was not quite so successful. Here she met for once, with her match; the widow had the art to empty her pockets, leaving her lover to ruminate on her folly, and to finish her journey on foot with the few shillings she had remaining.

Hannah was about a month in travelling from Carlisle to Portsmouth, where she soon enlisted as a marine in Colonel Fraser's regiment. Three weeks afterwards a draft was made from the regiment, for the East Indies, and Hannah among the rest was ordered to repair on board the Swallow sloop, one of the ships of Admiral Boscawen's fleet. She soon made herself remarkable on board by her dexterity and address in washing mending, and cooking for her messmates; and these little good offices obtained her the particular notice of Mr. Wyegate, one of the lieutenants of the marines, who, in a very friendly manner, requested her to become one of their mess. This offer she readily accepted, and soon became a great favourite with the crew of the sloop.

The Swallow having sustained considerable damage in a storm, was obliged to put into the port of Lisbon to refit. A month having been occupied with the necessary

repairs, the Swallow again put to sea, to rejoin the fleet; but, the night after her departure, another tempest equally violent with the former, destroyed the greatest part of the new rigging, so that she was reduced to a state very little better than a wreck. Hannah took her turn at the pump, which was kept constantly going, declined no office however dangerous, and established her character for courage, skill and intrepidity.

The ship was a second time repaired at Gibraltar, and having touched at the Madeiras, made the best of her way to the Cape of Good Hope, where having joined the rest of the squadron, they proceeded to make an attack on the Mauritius, which, however, proved unsuccessful. The Admiral then bore away for Fort St. David, on the coast of Coromandel, where the fleet soon afterwards arrived.

The marines being disembarked, joined the English army; encamping before Areacopong, they laid siege to the place, which on the 10th day surrendered. This adventure gave our heroine fresh spirits, and afforded her an opportunity of displaying her intrepidity, which she omitted no opportunity of doing, so that her conduct acquired the commendation of all her officers.

The army then proceeded to the attack of Pondicherry, and after lying before that place eleven weeks, and suffering very great hardships, they were obliged by the rainy season to abandon the siege. Our heroine was in the first party of English foot, who forded the river breast high, under an incessant fire from a French battery. She was likewise on the picket ground, continued on that duty seven nights successively, and laboured very hard about fourteen days at throwing out trenches.

During this time she maintained her usual firmness, and her conduct was perfectly the character of bravery which

the character of the British

tish soldier. In one of the attacks, however, her career was well nigh terminated. She fired thirty-seven rounds during the engagement, and received, according to her account, six shots in her right leg, five in the left, and what was still more painful, a dangerous wound in the groin. The latter gave her great uneasiness, as she feared lest it might lead to a discovery of her sex, which, even at the hazard of her life, she was determined to conceal. It was therefore necessary, that she should conceal the knowledge of her wound from the surgeons, and this she knew it would be in vain to attempt without assistance. Intrusting her secret to a black woman who attended her, and who had access to the surgeon's medicines, the latter procured lint, salve, and other necessities. The pain became extremely acute, and she endeavoured to extract the ball, which she at length accomplished with no other instrument than her finger and thumb. Notwithstanding this painful and dangerous operation, she soon made a perfect cure.

Being removed to the hospital of Cuddalore, during her residence there, the greater part of the fleet sailed. As soon as she was completely cured, she was sent on board the Tartar pink, and continued to do the duty of a sailor till the return of the fleet from Madras. She was soon afterwards turned over to the Eltham man of war, Captain Lloyd, and sailed with that ship to Bombay. Here the vessel which had sprung a leak on the passage, was heaved down to have her bottom thoroughly cleaned and repaired.

This operation lasted five weeks; the Captain remained on shore, while Hannah, in common with the rest of the crew, had her turn on the watch. On one of these occasions, the lieutenant who commanded in the captain's absence, desired her to sing a song, but she excused herself, saying she was very unwell. The officer, however, being

of a haughty and imperious disposition peremptorily insisted that she should comply, which she as resolutely refused to do. She soon afterwards had occasion to regret her non-compliance, for being suspected of making free with a shirt belonging to one of her comrades, though no proof could be adduced, the lieutenant ordered her to be put in irons. After remaining in this situation five days, she was ordered to the gang-way, and received twelve lashes. The shirt was found in the chest of the man who complained that he had lost it.

From Bombay the *Eltham* returned to Fort St. David, and on the 19th of November, 1749, that ship, together with the rest of the fleet, set sail for the Cape of Good Hope. Lieutenant Wygate who has been mentioned before in this narrative, died the day after their departure. His loss was a severe stroke to our heroine, as she was greatly attached to him, and he was one of her most sincere friends.

Soon after the death of Mr. Wygate, the second lieutenant of the ship took her into his service, in which she remained about two months, when having engaged a boy to attend him, he recommended her to Mr. Wallace, third lieutenant of the ship, who received her into his service, and treated her with distinguished kindness during the whole voyage.

About this time the sailors began to rally her, because she had no beard, and they soon afterwards jocosely christened her *Miss Molly Gray*. This sneering appellation occasioned her considerable alarm, as she feared lest some of the crew might suspect that she was a female, and avail themselves of some favourable opportunity to ascertain the truth of their suspicions. Instead therefore of resenting this treatment, she resolved to take part in all their scenes of dissipation, and endeavour to pass for as good a man

when the  
ship

ship arrived at Lisbon, she joined the crew in every party of pleasure on shore, and was one of the foremost to promote every species of joviality. She acted her part so naturally that her success far exceeded her expectation, so that the name of *Miss Molly* was here buried in oblivion, and *Hearty Jemmy* was substituted in its stead.

While the vessel remained at Lisbon, Hannah being in company with some of her shipmates, chanced to enter a house of entertainment, where they met with an English sailor who had been at Genoa in a Dutch vessel. She took the opportunity of enquiring after her long lost husband, and was informed that he had been confined at Genoa, for murdering a native of that place, who was a gentleman of some distinction, and that, to expiate his crime, he had been put into a bag with a quantity of stones, and thus thrown into the sea. Distressing as this information must have been, Hannah had, however, sufficient command over herself to conceal her emotions.

Leaving Lisbon, our female adventurer arrived in safety at Spithead, and proceeded to London to the house of her sister, who, notwithstanding her disguise and long absence, immediately recognized her, and gave her a hearty welcome.

Having, when the story became known, acquired a considerable degree of popularity, she was advised, as she possessed a good voice, to apply for an engagement to the Managers of the Royalty Theatre, Wellclose Square. As they closed with her offer, she appeared before the public in the character of Bill Bobstay, a sailor. She likewise represented Firelock a military character, and in a most masterly and correct manner went through the manual and platoon exercises, &c.

In this capacity she did not, however continue many months, but quitted the stage, and as she preferred male attire, she resolved to continue to wear it during the remainder

mainder of her life. In consideration of the hardships she had endured in the service of her country, government granted her a pension of 20*l.* with the assistance of which she took a public house in the neighbourhood of Wapping. On one side of the sign was painted, the figure of a jolly British tar, and on the other the valiant Marine, underneath which was inscribed, *the Widow in Masquerade, or the Female Warrior.*

These attractive signs produced the desired effect; her house was well frequented, and she lived many years in the enjoyment of prosperity, which compensated, in some measure, for the distresses she had experienced in the early period of her life.

Though the above account states that Hannah Snell succeeded in concealing her sex, yet we have been informed, by very respectable authority, that the wound in her groin led to a discovery of it. By the same person we have likewise been favoured with the following particulars: After her recovery from the above mentioned wound, she became acquainted with an Irish officer who took her under his protection. By this gentleman she had two sons, one of whom, still living, was articled to Mr. Greenland, an attorney, residing in Newman Street, Oxford Road, and was afterwards married to a young lady of the name of Simpson. A decent provision was left by the father for the two children, but on the death of the youngest, the whole devolved to the elder brother. This however proving inadequate to the support of a large family, he some years since published by subscription, a portrait of his mother, underneath which were a few particulars of her history.

*Curious and Interesting Narrative of the Sufferings and Adventures of part of the Crew of the WAGER on the East Coast of South America, in the Year 1741, by ISAAC MORRIS, Midshipman.*

(Communicated by D. B. L.)

THE Wager, our readers will recollect, was a storeship attached to the squadron sent under the command of Lord Anson, to annoy the Spanish possessions in America. Among the fatal circumstances, tending to frustrate, in some degree, the object of that expedition, was the loss of the Wager, which was wrecked on a desert island on the west coast of Patagonia. Here the captain and the officers, who had resolved to proceed northward to some Spanish settlement, were deserted by the greatest part of the crew, whose adventures are the subject of Mr. Morris's narrative.

October 12, 1741, being eighty in number, we put to sea in the long boat and cutter, leaving Capt. Cheap and 19 others on Wager Island, (lat. 47. S.) on the west coast of America, where we remained about five months. Our design was to steer along shore through the streights of Magellan to the Brazil coast. In the passage some of us were starved, and the survivors so reduced as to have scarcely strength for duty, except 15 that continued tolerably healthy. I will omit the detail of our misfortunes in this passage; suffice it to say that on January 10, 1741-42, being fourteen days without sight of land, and almost destitute of provisions, we were blessed with its agreeable prospect, distant about 7 leagues. We stood directly in, and anchored in eight fathoms water. Next morning we steered N.E. by E. one mile from shore; saw numerous wild horses, and some dogs; found ourselves

ourselves in lat. 36. 40. S. and steered N.E. into a large sandy bay.

January 12.—Our provisions being out, and but one cask of water left, we went as far as we safely could, and fourteen of the crew, of whom I was one, swam ashore to procure fresh supply, and all landed safe except one mariner, who was drowned. Four water casks were thrown overboard, to which some muskets and ammunition were lashed, which we received. Having walked about one mile from the beach, we saw numbers of wild horses and dogs; the first small, the latter of a large mongrel breed. Numerous flocks of parrots appeared about the rocks, and near the water side were a few seals. Near the shore we found a good spring of water issuing from a trench. We shot a wild horse and some seals, and filled three casks, which were towed aboard by five of our party. The sea-breeze blowing strong, the schooner stood farther off.

January 14.—The wind fresh at S.E. we saw our vessel stretching farther off, and soon received in a scuttled cask a few necessaries, with ammunition, and a letter to acquaint us they were obliged to stand farther off till the weather was more favourable. Next morning wind N.N.W. fair weather, we expected them to stretch in for land; but saw the schooner with the ensign at the topping-lift, and under sail from us. The most probable reason I could give for such inhuman treatment was, that by lessening the numbers, they might be better accommodated with room and provisions.

Our apprehensions at such an unexpected stroke, are more easily imagined than described. We were in a desolate part of the world, fatigued, sickly, and destitute of provisions. It is true we had arms, and whilst ammunition lasted, made shift for a livelihood. The nearest inhabited place we knew was about 300 miles



miles to N.W. but we were in poor condition for such a hazardous journey. Nothing therefore remained but to commit ourselves to providence, and for the present to make the best of our melancholy situation. Our names were Guy Broadwater, Samuel Cooper, Benjamin Smith, John Duck, Joseph Clinch, John Andrews, John Allen, and myself Isaac Morris.

We resolved to take up our quarters on the beach, where we landed, till strong enough to undergo a journey to Buenos Ayres: so took lodging in a trench near the sea side, with no covering but the heavens. Here we staid about a month, living on seal, which were very plentiful; we knocked them down with stones, after cutting off their retreat by getting between them and the sea; so that in a month we were pretty well recovered, and resolved on laying in provisions for our journey. Having each of us provided a seal-skin knapsack, we put in as much dried seal as we could carry, filling their bladders instead of bottles, with water, and set out about the middle of February. To proceed with more certainty, we determined to keep close to the sea-side till we attained the mouth of the river Plate (Rio del Plata). The first two days we travelled about sixty miles, but met with no fresh water, the country being scorched, and the rains not set in. Our water being nearly expended, we were afraid to proceed; so agreed to return to our old quarters, and wait the rainy season.

On our return we built a hut under a cliff adjoining the sea side, and tarried there three months: seals and armadillos being our only provision except sea-weed, which we now and then used with our meat. The male seals here are as big as a good calf; their necks shaggy, and the head and face like a lion's. The females are like lionesses in the fore part, but their hair is smooth all over, whereas the male is so only on his hinder parts.

from whence grow two large fins like feet, and two out of the breast, by means of which they climb rocks and precipices, though they delight to sleep near the shore. Some were fourteen feet long, and very fat; but their ordinary length is eight feet. The flesh of the young ones is almost as white as lamb, and tolerable eating.— From shoulder to tail they taper like a fish; and when the females give suck they sit on their hinder fins. Their hair is of different colours, and very sleek when they come out of the sea.

Our provisions were not very difficult to be had, and we were supplied with wood from a coppice about seven miles off. We generally had a hot supper, and passed the time as cheerfully as fellows in our circumstances could expect; but we knew we could not take a settled abode in this place, and could perceive no trace of inhabitants having ever been there; for the bay being deep, and shoal water, no ships probably ever put into it, unless forced by stress of weather, and then they must have been inevitably wrecked. Nothing in short, remained but to make a second attempt for the river Plate.

Having therefore laid in a proper stock, we set out again towards the latter end of May. In three days we travelled about seventy miles, when a violent storm came on, accompanied with rain, thunder, and lightning, which continued all night. We found no place of shelter, and had nothing to cover us but a seal-skin jacket; we were half dead with cold. We feared that our provisions would not hold out, having met with no kind of supply by the way, and that to proceed farther would only be lengthening our journey back again. Now for the first time we had like to have disagreed, even to parting; some being for pushing on at all events. However, we jointly at last, concluded on making the best of our way back again once more.

||| Being

Being arrived, we fixed upon measures to secure us from the inclemency of the weather, and to procure sustenance. To avoid disputes about the laborious part of getting provisions, we agreed to divide into two parties, alternately to provide for all, four to scour the country one day, and four the next. We had killed so many seals that they grew shy of us, and we lived on them so long that we were almost surfeited. We saw numbers of wild dogs, but could never come near enough to kill any, though now and then we shot a puppy, which proved delicious fare. We saw some deer, but could not contrive to take one. One day we met with a litter of three puppies about two months old, which had taken shelter in a hole in one of the sand hills; we took them home. Finding these puppies were whelped in holes, we all went out next day, and had the good luck to find three litters, in all thirteen, which we carried to our habitation, to bring up tame: we fed them with seal broth and minced flesh, and they became very serviceable. Each of us had a brace, brought up under command like spaniels; nor would they leave us to associate with the wild ones; they often supplied us with armadillos, and one killed a deer. Hunting one day we saw some wild hogs with their young, which our dogs pursued, and took two of the latter; we saved them alive, and shot one of the old ones, which afforded many dainty suppers. The young proved a boar and sow, which we designed to rear for breeding, and brought them up so tame, that they would follow our dogs a hunting; and at night all of us took up our lodging together.

We now wanted nothing; and could we have confined our thoughts to present enjoyments, our situation had been agreeable enough; but the fears of what might happen, frequently struck a damp. Winter was approaching; we had the season to guard against, a stock

of provisions to lay up, but had no salt to cure them. We resolved to put our habitation in order, and to secure our hut in the best manner possible. Six were to stay at home next day to procure materials, and two to go out. That lot fell on me and Duck. It was so dark before we returned, that we were near being obliged to lie in the open plain, had not our comrades by making a fire, directed us. About twelve we went to sleep, and about two in the morning a violent storm threw down part of the cliff on us, which was very near proving fatal to us all; providentially none were hurt.

At day-light, the weather being tolerable, the first thing we did was to re-build. We went to the coppice to fell some poles: having but one hatchet, one person only could fell them, while the rest brought them out and bundled them. We were bundling when we saw Clinch run out of the wood, crying, "Lord have mercy upon us, here's a great tyger!" We were astonished, having come out without arms, suspecting no such danger. We took to our heels and saw him in pursuit of us: when within twenty yards of us, finding it impossible to escape him, we all turned clasping our hands, and hallooing to fright him; he immediately fell back on his tail, gazing at us; so we walked off without his pursuing. With our poles we fitted up our hut sufficiently to guard us from rain.

Three weeks afterwards, on the plain, about four miles from home, we perceived a lion couchant, watching his prey, as we imagined, it being close by a wild cat's hole. We joined in a body with our musquets ready, but missed him. The lion took no notice, nor stirred from his posture. We fired again, and shot him in the shoulder: he fell on his back, and we ran and knocked him on the head with the bones of a dead horse that lay near him. We dressed his heart and part of his ribs; but it was very indifferent eating.

Finding

Finding ourselves to be in continual danger, we determined to make another push for Buenos Ayres, and provided stores, jackets, and knapsacks of seal skins. The weather was set in fair. We divided therefore into two parties, four to kill seal, and four to hunt. It was my lot with Cooper, Andrews and Duck, to go to the rocks. Seal being generally killed with stones or clubs, we never carried musquets. We had killed three, and in the evening, within a stone's cast of our hut, I perceived our dogs very busy at a small distance wagging their tails in a very fondling manner. I passed on without much regarding it, thinking they had lighted on a dead colt. But when I came to the hut, I was quite confounded, it being rifled, and all our necessities gone. I ran back to my comrades, where I left the dogs. They cried out, "what's the matter Isaac?" I told them, "Ay," said they, "and something worse has happened; for yonder lie poor Guy Broadwater and Ben. Smith murdered!" It was a most shocking sight; one had his throat cut, the other was stabbed, and they were hardly cold; so we thought the murderers could not be far off. At the hut we found our powder, ball, musquets, and all gone, and the fire extinguished. Whither to go or what to do we knew not.—At last we came to a resolution of going to the next sandy bay, about a mile distant, and to take up our quarters there for that night. There we found not so much as a cliff to lie under, so were obliged to return to our old abode.

Next morning the dogs of our comrades stood on the top of the cliff barking at us, nor would they come down though we called them by their names, and with difficulty called them down in the evening. It seemed most probable that the Indians had carried off Clinch and Allen. We buried the other two bodies in the sand.—The only expedient now was immediately to quit this place,

place, and make one attempt more for Buenos-Ayres. We instantly set about tearing raw seal in small pieces, with which we filled our knapsacks, &c. and set forward with our sixteen dogs and two pigs, keeping close along the coast, which all along is a plain sandy beach. On the land side here and there were high sand-hills, in the vallies of which we reposed at night. We sometimes found cockles washed in; a great dainty! and met with a part of a wreck on the beach, particularly a man of war's gang-board, and a piece of plank marked 15 feet. In the above mentioned vallies was plenty of water ponded after rain, and we met with fish thrown in on the beach.

At ten days end we made the river's cape, but found a multitude of small rivers and swamps to obstruct us. We swam several with our knapsacks across our shoulders, and at night covered ourselves with rushes, being almost devoured by mosquitos. Next day we made several attempts to proceed; but the further we went, the greater difficulties we met with, so had no remedy but to tread back the melancholy path to our old place, which we did in less than ten days.

We were then afraid to ramble far, having no arms, &c. Our two pigs maintained us near a fortnight, as did afterwards some of our trusty dogs; but in about three months this raw feeding brought us into an ill state of health. A little way from our hut we found a dead horse, of which now and then we took a morsel; and necessity obliging us to go abroad, we sometimes had the good fortune to take an armadillo. Finding the trunk of a large tree, we imagined it not impossible, with the help of skins, to make it into a sort of boat, to convey us along shore to the river; but having no tool, Duck recollected that at the end of our first attempt he threw away his musquet, being very indifferent, and we having then

then enough besides; we therefore went and found it. On our return we found ostrich eggs half buried in the sand. We beat half the length of the gun barrel flat with stones, and whetted it against a rock, the other half serving for a handle, and it made a tolerable hatchet.

Two days after we had finished it, being my turn to stay at home, towards evening I walked out to see if my companions were returning, and shortly after perceived a dozen horsemen galloping down the sandy beach towards our hut, whom I soon knew to be Indians. I ran towards them, fell on my knees, begging life with all the signs I could, when I heard, "Don't be afraid Isaac, we are all here." This revived me.—The Indians alighted, and whilst some examined the hut, others stood with knives ready to dispatch us if we resisted. When they had satisfied their curiosity, they gave three confused shouts, and made us get up behind them. They carried us a few miles into the country towards the S.W. and joined about twelve more, who had in care about four hundred horses, taken in hunting. They treated us with humanity, killed a horse, and roasted a part, which was to us a delicious entertainment. They gave us also a piece of old blanket to cover our nakedness.

We decamped next day, driving the horses before us, and travelled nineteen days before we reached their next rendezvous, which might be about two hundred miles S.W. from our hut, in a valley, where was fine pasture and small rivers, but very little wood to be seen for many miles round. Here were about twelve Indian huts, built with poles and horse skins, inhabited by another party, with their wives and children, who gazed earnestly on us, as though they had never seen white people before. We were bought and sold four times for a pair

a pair of spurs, a brass pan, ostrich feathers, &c. and sometimes played away at dice.

We remained here near a month, when the several parties returned from hunting, and joined us, each bringing the horses they had taken into the common stock, amounting to about 1500, some of which were scarcely inferior to the best of our European breed. We set out for their chief town, where their king lived, being about a thousand miles from our hut, and were four months on our journey. Our food was horse-flesh, which some chose raw, others boiled or roasted, and never wanted water, the Indians being acquainted with every small rivulet, which by strangers could not easily be found.

At the end of our journey, after our captors had dispatched their affairs, they were carrying us with them to their own houses, and had proceeded some miles, when we were overtaken by a party of horse, who brought us back; the king claiming us as his property. This town consists of about thirty huts, built low and irregular, with poles and horse skins, surrounded with pallisades about three feet from each other, and containing about four score inhabitants. His Majesty received us in his hut sitting on the ground, with a javelin on one side, and a bow and arrow on the other: he had a loose mantle round his waist, a sort of turret of feathers on his head, and a long reed pipe in his mouth smoking. He asked us proper questions in bad Spanish, of which we understood a little. We told him we were Englishmen, wrecked in the South Sea, in an English man of war, going to fight our enemies the Spaniards, together with the rest of our history.—When he found we were at war with the Spaniards, he expressed great joy, and asked if we were great men in our country.—We answered in the affirmative.—He said the Spaniards  
were



were their great enemies, and had taken away their country, and driven them to the mountains.—When he had examined us, he ordered a horse to be killed and dressed, and lodged us in his own hut that night, till next day we had one built for us. Here we staid eight months. Our work was chiefly to fetch wood and water, to skin all the horses which they killed, and the slaves were treated humanely. Here were four Spanish women whom the king told us with a smile, he would give us for wives.

Patagonia is very fruitful in pasture, and abounds with horses and a few black cattle, which last are quite neglected by the Indians, horse-flesh being there preferred to all others. The climate is very healthy, and if the soil were cultivated, it would produce all kinds of grain, &c. They have plenty of wood, though but few timber trees, coppices growing all about, though near the sea, we saw nothing but a plain open sandy coast. The Patagonians, at least those in that part where we resided, are tall and well made, generally from five to six feet high, good natured and obliging, and never see each other want. The king is only the chief of a party; for as they live scattered in little towns, each party seems to have such a chief. At drinking-bouts the king and his subjects are all equal. He is distinguished by being the biggest man, and by a kind of sash round his waist. It is true he has deference paid him; and whatever he orders, is immediately performed; but I never saw any punishment, nor any quarrels except at drinking, and then their wives always took care to put all weapons out of the way. Their feasting is thus: They have in summer plenty of sweet berries, like our wortle-berries; having got sufficient, they dig a pit about four feet square, lining the sides and bottom with hides. This they half fill with berries, and fill it up with water, stir

it, and leave it to ferment forty-eight hours. They sit round it afterwards smoaking and drinking a whole night; women and men, singing or rather shrieking; and when drunk often fall to blows. When their horses have eat down the pasture in one place, they remove their town to another, and this several times in a year. They seem to have some notion of a deity, and pay a sort of worship to the sun and moon — When any of them is sick, or dying, a flannel cloth is hung up before the person; a man with a hoop, round which are tied little bells, generally a relation comes, and after a few minutes conversation, walks to the hut, jingling his bells, and talking in various accents, designed as spells or prayers. They roll up a dead body in a hide, with every thing belonging to it, and throw it into a large round pit, which they fill up with earth. They are afraid of apparitions, for none of them will stir out in the dark without company. Each Indian has but one wife, and they live in a very loving manner. The entrance of the hut, which at other times is always open, is shut up with skins as soon as a woman falls in labour; and no one enters till she comes out with her child in her arms, which is immediately wrapped up in a skin, and laid on a machine somewhat like a wheelbarrow; this being hung up by the corners; the child swings instead of being rocked; its arms and legs are fastened to prevent its falling. Every morning they plunge all their children in the next brook, even when the ground is covered with snow, by which means they are hardened to run naked in winter. The men wear beads and little bells round their necks, wrists and legs; and the women adorn their hair with the same. For such trifles, and knives, brass pans, &c. they traffic their hides with the Spaniards when at peace. Their hunting season is the spring, and they generally spend the summer in taking horses. We made great inter-  
mon

sion to go with them, and at last prevailed, by assuring the chief the English had friends at Buenos Ayres, who would make him very handsome satisfaction for us, and redeem us at any price.

We were a thousand miles from Buenos Ayres, and their route extended to the east coast of Patagonia, quite to the sea, being about a hundred miles south of Buenos Ayres. They carry with them every thing they have, women, children, and houses. These last, slung across the horses, are nightly taken down to shelter them. They take a few more horses than they ride to maintain them till the hunting begins, which seldom happens till they have travelled seven or eight days. We all set out in a body except Duck, (a Mulatto born in London) who being nearly of a complexion with those Indians, was therefore sold up the country. We travelled ten or twelve days before we saw any horses, but soon after several stragglers fell victims to their ingenuity. Their astonishing method of taking them deserves particular description.—Being excellent horsemen, and their horses as fleet as the wind, they seldom miss their mark. They have two methods; the first is with a lash of horse skins, about two inches broad, and fifty feet long, having a running noose at one end. This noose they hold in the right hand, and the other end in their left, till they come within a few yards of the beast, when they throw the noose over his head, even on full speed, and hold the other end fast in their left hand, by which contrivance the beast is soon stopped and taken. The other method is with a narrow strap of horse-skin about twelve feet long, to each end of which is fastened a ball of iron, about two pounds weight. When within distance of game, they hurl one of the balls several times round their head till they have got the proper swing, and then throw it at the horse's legs, parting with the ball in their

left hand at the same time. This seldom fails cutting their legs, and throwing them to the ground. The horses thus taken are secured by some of the pursuers, whose business is chiefly to tie them in a string, and guard them. In a few days they become tame. They are dextrous in killing birds with these balls, which they throw to a prodigious height. They are trained to this from their infancy, and are very expert at it even in youth. These iron balls so fastened, are their chief weapons, next to bow and arrows.

Being now within 100 miles of Buenos Ayres, we begged our head conductor to dispatch a man to the governor, and acquaint him that he had three English prisoners, and enquire if he would redeem us, which request he granted. The messenger brought back a gold laced waistcoat as a pledge for fulfilling his promise. Next day we were desired to get ready to go to Buenos Ayres. We soon arrived there, and were immediately brought before the Governor, who satisfied our Indian prisoners with ninety dollars, and a few trifles, and then dismissed him.

After remaining at Buenos Ayres a short time, we took shipping for England, where we safely arrived after an absence of fifteen months from our native land.

#### DEATH OF PATRICK O'BRIEN, *the IRISH GIANT.*

An anonymous letter having reached us, stating the death of Mr. O'Brien, for particulars of whom see No. 17. p. 332) we think it our duty to lay it before our readers, though we have not yet ascertained the accuracy of the intelligence it conveys.

*Cork, July 31, 1804.*

O'BRIEN, the Irish Giant, died here last Friday, and this day was interred at the church of St. Patrick, the coffin was of an immense magnitude,

of people which attended the funeral was so great, and so clamorous, as to oblige the mayor to have the attendance of several of the peace officers. O'Brien had a small property in the county of Kerry, of about 150l. a year, which had been mortgaged, to clear which he had exhibited himself as a show for some years back; the property was nearly cleared, and he had determined to retire to his native place after exhibiting himself at Kinsale, to which place he was about to have gone at the time he was taken ill here. He is reported to have made a special bequest in his will, that his skeleton might be exhibited in the Museum of the College at Dublin.



PINE-APPLES OF REMARKABLE MAGNITUDE.

IN July, 1804, Mr. Griffin, gardener to J. C. Girardot, Esq. of Kelham near Newark, cut a pine-apple of the New Providence kind, weighing seven pounds two ounces; and on the 8th of August another of the same kind, which weighed nine pounds three ounces. The plants from which they were taken produced fruit when only two years old.

In 1803, Mr. Griffin cut a common queen pine, weighing five pounds three ounces; and in 1802, he cut twenty queen pines, which together weighed eighty-seven pounds three ounces. It is presumed the above are the largest pine apples of the kind ever grown in this country.



FATAL ACCIDENT CAUSED BY SUFFOCATION.

A VERY extraordinary and fatal accident occurred on Sunday, August 12th, at the house of Mr. Hoffman, confectioner, in Bishopsgate Street. About two o'clock in the afternoon, one of the shopmen having occasion to go down to the ice-well to fetch up ice, by some means

set

set fire to a quantity of straw, which covered it. The straw being damp, it did not burst forth into a flame, but continued to burn in a smothered state; the man made every exertion to extinguish the fire, but without effect; and it extended itself all over the well. By this time the man became so ill and faint, from the stench arising from the damp straw, that it was with difficulty he escaped suffocation. When he reached the top of the well he was still exceedingly ill, and went to bed, but without mentioning to any one what had happened.

After some time, being considerably recovered, he got up, communicated the whole affair to his fellow servant, and mentioned his determination to go down into the well again, to make a second effort to extinguish the fire. He accordingly went, and having remained there a considerable time, his fellow servant called him from the top of the well, and not receiving any answer, became extremely alarmed, and imparted his fears to a porter belonging to the London Tavern, which is directly opposite to Mr. Hoffman's. The porter immediately went down into the well to see what had become of the shopman, whom he found to all appearance dead; and though he himself was greatly affected by the smoke, he thought he should be able to bring the deceased to the top of the ladder, upon his shoulders. The poor fellow had nearly succeeded in his humane intencion, and was within a short distance of the top, when he was obliged to throw the corpse from his shoulders, and it fell to the bottom of the well. The porter himself was so completely overcome by the stench, that he was not able to keep his hold of the ladder, and almost at the same moment dropped down himself. The man at the top was dreadfully agitated, and alarmed the whole house.

As it was now supposed that the fire had nearly spent itself, and that there was less danger, a person was found who

who offered to venture down into the well, to save, if possible, the life of the porter who fell from the ladder; it was, however, too late; the man was found to be dead. This person was down only a short time before he began to experience the effects of the foul air; and notwithstanding he made the best of his way to the ladder, he was so completely overpowered by the stench as to be unable to reach it. In a short time he also became insensible, and unable to answer when called. Mr. Hoffman's livery servant, with the greatest promptitude and resolution, then determined to venture down to save the life of the third man, who had so courageously gone down to preserve the others: but he had the precaution to fasten a rope round him, and he desired the persons above to pull him up the moment they found him unable to answer them. This last effort happily succeeded; he brought up the man out of the well, who was all but dead, and has been since, with much difficulty, restored. During the whole of the succeeding night he was in a delirious state.

The two dead bodies were brought up out of the well, and carried to St. Peter's church, where they lay till the coroner's inquest was held on them, at the London Tavern. The jury brought in a verdict, that the deceased persons, named Rolfe and Robinson, died by suffocation.

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*Extraordinary and interesting Account of the Restoration
to Life of Persons supposed to be dead.*

IN the month of February, 1746, says M. Louis, a celebrated French surgeon, a young woman from the country, of a very robust constitution, about twenty-five years of age, set off on foot from the Hotel Dieu at Paris, where she had been brought to bed two days before, and went to the Salpetriere. She was apprehensive of being
attacked

attacked with a disorder which then prevailed among the lying-in women at the Hotel Dieu, and had carried off great numbers of them. The fatigue of the walk so exhausted the poor creature, that upon her arrival she immediately swooned away, and was put to bed. Hot cloths were applied to warm her, and by means of cordials she was at length revived. In about an hour, she relapsed into the same state, and was supposed to be dead. The keeper of the ward sent me word that she had a subject which I might make use of for my anatomical and chirurgical lectures. My pupils lost no time in fetching away the body, which was simply covered with a cloth, and had already been exposed two hours on a hand-barrow to the inclemency of the weather. Without examining the body, they removed it into the amphitheatre. The following morning, before I went to see my patients, a young surgeon told me that during the night he had heard plaintive sounds in the amphitheatre, like some person moaning and fetching deep sighs; but that fear had prevented him from getting up and informing me of the circumstance. I instantly went to examine the body, and found, with extreme concern, that the poor young woman, who was then actually dead, had endeavoured to disengage herself from the cloth in which she was enveloped. One of her legs was off the hand-barrow on the ground, and one of her arms was placed on the bar of a dissecting table, beside which the barrow had been placed. I still recollect the sentiments of horror and compassion which at that moment filled my bosom; and I doubt whether there can be a more melancholy or affecting spectacle.

In the year 1558, Burgundy and the town of Dijon in particular were ravaged by such a destructive pestilence, that there was not time to dig a separate grave for each corpse. Vast holes were therefore made, which were
filled

filled with dead bodies. A woman named Nicole Lentillet, shared the general fate, and after several days illness she fell into such a swoon that she was judged to be dead, and was buried in one of the general graves. The morning after her interment she revived, and endeavoured to release herself from that disagreeable situation; but her weakness, and the weight of the bodies with which she was covered, prevented her. In this horrible condition she remained four days, till she was disengaged by the people who brought some more dead bodies, and who carried her back to her own house, where she perfectly recovered.

The city of Thoulouse furnishes several examples of precipitate interment: among the rest the following is particularly remarkable. A lady having been buried in the church of the Jacobins, with a diamond ring on her finger, one of her servants concealed himself in the church, and at night went down into the vault where the coffin had been deposited. Having opened it, and the finger being so swelled as to prevent the removal of the ring, he fell to work to cut it off. The violence of the pain caused the supposed corpse to shriek out violently; the servant, terrified to death, fell down in a state of insensibility. The lady, meanwhile, continued to moan. The time of matins fortunately arriving, some of the monks heard the sound, went down into the vault, where they found the lady sitting up, and the servant half dead. A messenger was dispatched to call up the husband, who carried his wife home. She recovered; but the servant experienced such a violent shock, that after languishing twenty-four hours, he made a compensation to death for the victim which he snatched from his clutches.

Gentil Cariscendi, a gentleman of Bologna, having become enamoured of the wife of Nicolas Chassennemi,

and being unable to inspire his mistress with a similar passion, accepted in despair the office of podestat of Modena, which was offered him. During a journey which Chassennemi was obliged to make, the lady retired to a country house, where she was surprized by such a sudden accident that even the physicians judged her to be dead. As she was supposed to be not far advanced in her pregnancy, she was interred without any method being employed to save the child. Cariscendi being informed of the death of his mistress, flew to the place where she was buried. He opened the coffin and embraced her. After some time he felt that her heart still palpitated. Convinced that she was not dead, he put her on his horse, and secretly conveyed her to his house at Bologna, where she was restored to life. After she had perfectly recovered, she was delivered of a living child; after which Cariscendi went back to Modena to complete the term of his magistracy. Upon his return he gave a grand entertainment, to which Chassennemi was invited. During the dessert, he introduced his mistress with her child in her arms, and restored them to the husband, who was doubly rejoiced, at having recovered his wife, and having become a father.

The following fact was related to M. Bruhier, by a friend on whose veracity he could rely, and who was acquainted with all the parties concerned. At the beginning of the last century, a young and handsome lady, wife of one of the principal inhabitants of Pont Saint Esprit in Languedoc, having been interred in the morning, a young man of the town, who had been deeply in love with her, resolved to enjoy the following night the satisfaction of seeing her once more. It was the less difficult for him to execute this design, as the supposed corpse had been deposited in a cemetery inclosed by a wall only three feet high. The lover, with the assistance

of a friend, took the lady out of her grave, and removed her beneath a kind of porch, which concealed them from the looks of inquisitive persons who might be passing that way. There the dejected lover tore open the sheet which covered the face of his mistress, and while he pressed her tenderly in his arms, he thought he perceived some symptoms of life. In the transports of the most lively joy, he exclaimed that she was not dead. The friend, who at first feared that it was the illusion of love, was soon convinced of the reality of her revival by a sigh which the lady uttered. A bottle of mint-water, which the lover had fortunately taken with him, recovered her so far that she could be carried home; where it was not without considerable difficulty that she could prevail on the servants to inform her husband she was alive and required immediate assistance. She was at length admitted, and by proper treatment perfectly recovered her health, which she enjoyed a great number of years.

The French army, after the taking of St. Sebastian in the year 1719, marching to lay siege to Rose, passed through Paw, where the Marquis de Briquemau, aid-de-camp to the Prince of Conti, was obliged to stop, being attacked by a disease equally violent and sudden. He was soon overtaken by a lethargic affection, of such a nature that every one supposed him to be dead. The mistress of the house where he was being deeply affected, and perhaps still more frightened at the presence of a corpse, endeavoured to persuade the minister of the parish to bury him the same day, but without success. All she could obtain was, that the body should be placed in the church till the expiration of twenty-four hours. The marquis having come to himself during the night, struggled with such force that he broke out of his prison. Affrighted at the situation in which he found himself, he took refuge on the steps of an altar, where he was

discovered the next morning when the church was opened. He was removed as cold as ice to his former lodging, where his landlady, with a view to warm him as speedily as possible, placed him near a large fire, which causing a sudden rarefaction of the fluids, soon extinguished the small remnant of life that was left in him.

Nymman, in his Treatise on Apoplexy, relates, that in his time there was living in Wirttemberg a widow named Eve Meggers, who when she was a young woman, and resided with one of her aunts at the neighbouring town of Acken, where the plague was then making dreadful ravages, was attacked by it, after several other persons had died in the same house of that disease. She was then twenty-three years old, and the disorder took such a turn that every one thought her dead. From a warm place she was removed to a cold situation, where she was laid upon straw till the time of interment, that is, till two o'clock in the afternoon, for she was supposed to have died about midnight; otherwise she would have been interred at noon, according to the custom then established in that place. A short time before the arrival of those who were to carry her to the grave, the supposed corpse began to stir, striving to raise her head and even to rise up. The aunt, who was then in the house with another woman, was frightened, and imagining that it was a spirit, seized a stick, with which she would have dispatched her niece, had not her companion interfered; but the latter could not prevent her from using it in rudely driving back the poor girl. At length she ran away, and shut herself into another room. The patient meeting with this harsh treatment, remained on the spot as if insensible, though she could be perceived to breathe. The interment was put off, and twelve hours afterwards she was entirely revived.

M. de

M. de St. André, in a work printed at Rouen in the year 1700, and entitled, *Reflections on the Nature of Remedies, their Effects and manner of acting*, relates a circumstance which took place in the presence of his father, to whom the patient was indebted for his life. A gentleman aged sixty years, being ill of a fever, fell into a swoon, and, as it was supposed, expired. Every preparation was made for his funeral, and even for opening his body, according to the desire of his children. Two clergymen having remained by the corpse to say the usual prayers, disputed who should perform that office; which obliged my father to enter the room, to prevent them from coming to blows. My father having afterwards approached the bed, and from curiosity or accident having uncovered the face, he thought he discovered a movement in it; at the same time he held the candle to the nose and mouth without perceiving any respiration or pulsation of the arteries. Supposing him to be absolutely dead, he was leaving him, when he thought he again saw the same movement; and upon touching his temples, he imagined that he felt a feeble pulsation. He called for wine, rubbed the nose, lips, and temples, and several times poured a little into the mouth, without observing any signs of animation. My father, convinced that he was entirely destitute of life, was just going to leave him, when he began to taste the wine which had been poured into his mouth. After swallowing a few spoonfuls, he opened his eyes, and recovering from his weakness, related all that had passed between the two clergymen, without omitting the most minute circumstance. Within a short time afterwards he was perfectly cured.

The following incidents, with which we shall conclude this article, are of such a nature as to appear almost incredible; but as they are related by writers of respectability,

ability, we cannot forbear submitting them to our readers.

Pechlin, in the tenth chapter of his Treatise *De Air. et Alim. defect.* says:—Eighteen years ago, a gardener of Tronningholm (in Sweden), who is now sixty-five years old, and very healthy and robust for his age, was endeavouring to assist a son who had fallen into the water. Walking without the least precaution upon the ice, it broke under him, and he himself fell into the water, which in that place is eighteen fathoms in depth. He went down feet first, and sunk in a perpendicular posture to the bottom; in this state he remained sixteen hours before he was taken out. He said, that as soon as he was under the water, his whole body grew stiff, and lost all motion and sensation, excepting that he thought he heard indistinctly the sound of the bells which were then ringing at Stockholm. He likewise felt at first as if there was a bladder before his mouth, which prevented the water from entering that way; he, however, felt it come in at his ears, which produced a hardness of hearing that did not leave him for a considerable time afterwards. He sought every where in vain during sixteen hours; at length, a hook being struck into his head, which he said he felt, he was found and drawn up. Either through custom or popular persuasion, it was still hoped that he would recover; he was, therefore, wrapped in cloths, for fear the air, by entering too suddenly into the lungs, might prove fatal. Being thus secured from the air, he was taken to a house, and warmed by degrees; he was then wrapped in warm linen cloths, and rubbed till his blood was put in motion. At length he was perfectly recovered by means of cordials and draughts usually given in cases of apoplexy. He shewed the scars on his head from the wounds he had received from the hook, and confessed that he was occasionally

Occasionally subject to violent head-ache. In consequence of an accident so singular, and attested upon oath by eye witnesses, the queen mother granted him a pension.

A short time since, (says Dr. Kunckel, in the *Miscellanies of the Academy of the Observers of Nature*) about four leagues from the town of Fahlun, where there is a celebrated mountain from which great quantities of copper are extracted, a dauber, who knew just sufficient of painting to sketch some rude figures on the stoves of the peasants, fell out of a vessel into the water, so as to reach the bottom on his legs. A fruitless search was made for him, during eight days; after which he ascended to the surface, and appeared full of life. The judge and minister of the place put the following questions to him:—if he had breathed the whole time; he replied that he did not know—if he had thought of God, and recommended his soul to him; to which he answered, frequently—if he could see and hear; he replied, yes, and that he might even have laid hold of the hooks with which they were seeking for him, if he could have extended his arms. He added, that the fishes had made incessant war upon his eyes, which gave him great uneasiness. Being asked how he defended himself against them, he replied, by moving his eye-lids. As to hearing, he related that nothing was more painful to him than when any thing struck upon the surface of the water; and that he felt excessive pain in his ears in particular, and which was communicated to his whole body, whenever any person came to fetch water with a pail. He was asked whether he ever felt hungry; he replied, no—if he had slept; he said he did not know, because he had sometimes been insensible; but that all his thoughts, as far as he recollected, had no other object than God and his deliverance.

Kunckel

Kunckel received this history from an eye-witness, whose son chanced to fall overboard into the water. He sunk to the bottom, upon which he proceeded about fifteen hundred paces towards the shore. This young man told him, that in taking the steps necessary for his preservation he had thought of God, and did not recollect that he had any other idea; that the voice of his sister, who was shrieking on the shore, had served to direct him towards the place it proceeded from; that blows upon the surface of the water, and the cries which he heard very distinctly, had greatly incommoded him; that he had been two hours in going from the place where he fell in to the shore; that he had breathed without knowing how; that the water had not entered into his body, and that he had been hot instead of cold. Dr. Kunckel adds, that he interrogated a fisherman who fell into the water at the same place, with the last-mentioned person, and was prevented from getting out again by the ice. He remained three days in that situation, and was brought up in good health. The only remark he made, was, that a large bladder appeared to be formed round his head. The author concludes his observations by declaring, that he is not astonished that this fisherman should remain alive, but that he cannot comprehend how the others could have recovered.



Astonishing Account of a Man deprived of Sense and Motion for Twelve Years.

The following wonderful case is described by M. Arvid Faxe, in the Memoirs of the Royal Academy of Stockholm, for October, 1784.

OLUF Olufson, a peasant, in the parish of Rænneby, in the province of Bletting, now aged forty-one, had been a sailor in his youth, was of a strong constitution, and

and had once nearly perished in a storm. He was seized with fever in June 1771, which appeared by pains in his body, great heats, and violent head-ache; he soon lost his speech, and shortly after, his internal and external senses.

About a month afterwards, the fever and heats abated; but he had become so lean during this malady, that it was difficult to discover in him a fleshy fibre. His body resembled that of a skeleton covered by a slight skin.

He remained lying on his back constantly, and immoveable; his hands on his breast, his legs stretched out, and his eyes generally closed. He passed *eleven years* in this helpless state, till the summer of 1782. Except a little milk insinuated between his lips, and sometimes a spoonful of wine or brandy, and at the same time a pinch of snuff, he absolutely took no other food. No one can recollect, during all this time, that he ever expressed a wish for food. He could pass over four days, and sometimes a week, without taking milk. As he had neither flesh nor fat, this constant position did not occasion him any ulcers in his back.

His brother, Anders Olufson, shewed every fraternal affection for him, and during these tedious and melancholy years, he sought every means to restore him to life, (for his present state could scarcely be called life,) which the most tender friendship suggested. He boiled some plants, with which he fomented his head frequently. Oluf appeared to recover a certain degree of sensation, regain a little strength, and seemed gradually restored, but he gave no mark of perception nor reason. He appeared in a restless state, and full of alarm, in the presence of any person.

In this state he remained a considerable time before he would suffer himself to be observed stepping out of his bed, which, therefore, he generally did in the night,

or when the family were out in the fields; then would he drag himself to the spot where he could take a little milk; but frequently, by the unexpected entrance of any one, he was seized with great trepidations, and frequently remained stretched out on the ground, without the least capability of motion. At length his brother, resolved to make him quit his usual abode, would take him out, give other nourishment, (though he ever preferred milk,) adding some strengthening substances, bathed his head with cold water, by a spring at some distance from the house. Although the patient had recovered his hearing and feeling, he still remained extremely feeble and meagre, without powers of articulation, and with scarcely any trace of reason: habit, however, made him capable of going himself to draw water from the spring to bathe his head.

Twelve years had passed since the commencement of this malady; and he astonished the village, when they saw him suddenly recover the use of his physical faculties. This happened on the 8th of August 1783, when he returned with water, in the presence of his brother, of his two sisters, and the servants, as they were preparing to dress for church. It was then he was seized with shiverings, tremors in his arms and legs, and said, in a hurrying voice, "Lord God! this is amazing! where have I been all this time?"

At this moment a vein in the crown of his head opened of itself, and there fell out about six drops of blood; another vein opened at the extremity of the right nostril; another at the chin; and there ran, as if from both ears, nearly as much blood.

Nearly about this time he also recovered his speech, spoke what he wished, had his perfect understanding, called by their names all those who were in or out of the house, and whom he had known before his malady, and was

was astonished to find them grown so old; but he did not recognize one of those whom he had not known before his disorder, although they had appeared daily before him during its prolonged state.

Oluf considered this accident as a mere dream, without knowing whether it had lasted a long or a short time. But what is more remarkable is, that he did not seem sensibly to have lost his memory during these twelve years, and did not recollect any thing which had passed during his malady.

The people of the house seating themselves at table for supper, he desired to read the ordinary prayers and grace, and he performed it without much hesitation. Some days after, he desired to perform his devotions, and according to the account of Dr. Henschens, he appeared to have a perfect knowledge of the articles of his faith.

The opening of the veins mentioned, were followed by slight scars on the crown of his head, as also on the nose, and by a red spot on his chin; the wound in the middle remained open a longer time, and the scar gave the nose an obliquity it had not before.

When the patient had recovered the use of his speech, he spoke for some time with precipitation; but at the present moment in the most orderly manner. His eyes appear somewhat disfigured, but that arises from his squinting. In all other respects he is in good health, gains corpulency, and performs his daily labour.

Scarcely had Oluf Olufson recovered his health, than I was informed of his extraordinary malady; but its singularity induced me to take the most minute and well-authenticated information ere I laid it before the Royal Academy. These details, therefore, are equally remarkable and true.

WILLIAM POWELL, *the* HIGHGATE PROPHET.*With a Portrait.*

WILLIAM POWELL was one of the many melancholy instances of methodical lunacy that beget a particular enquiry as to the primary cause of unaccountable actions; and as the object is more or less interesting, their notoriety is confined to a single spot, or extended beyond the limits of their own neighbourhood. The memories of mad writers, mad preachers, and mad actors, are mostly perpetuated; while the actions of lunatics, in a more private walk of life, for want of similar advantages, sink into obscurity.

The subject of these observations was a man of some respectability and connection, and held a place in the Treasury. But being so *unfortunately* lucky as to gain a prize of 500l. in the Lottery, he fondly imagined he had found a more ready way to future riches, than if he had discovered the *philosopher's stone*. From the time he came into possession of the above sum, he neglected the duty of his place in the Treasury, and never ceased wandering, like a *Will o' th' Wisp*, after lottery speculations, until he had lost not only the 500l. he had before gained, but every guinea in the world he besides possessed. The consequent disappointment and vexation affected his mind in a way that rendered him unfit for the situation he had before too much neglected, and he was permitted to resign it on a pension of twenty pounds a year; which from some unknown cause was discontinued for about three years prior to his death. His brother, a man in affluent circumstances, had occasionally contributed towards his necessities; but not in a sufficient manner to prevent his applying to the parish for relief,
and

and he must have ended his days in the workhouse he was necessitated to enter, had it not been for the liberality of the person with whom he lodged, Mr. Cock, baker, in Sloane Street, Pimlico; who, induced through compassion, gave him a garret in his house, and furnished him with necessaries, to the hour of Powell's death, which happened a few months afterwards, August 15, 1803, in the sixty-fourth year of his age. He was buried in the Burying-ground King's Road, Chelsea.

It was the constant practice of this unfortunate man, for several years, in all seasons and weathers, to walk early in the morning from Sloane Street to Highgate, preserving an equal pace until he arrived at the foot of the hill, when he would take off his gloves, carefully fold them, and put them in his pocket; then raising his hands to heaven, as in the act of devotion, he would suddenly set off in a gentle run, never stopping or looking back till he had reached the top. If he was stopped, as it often happened by persons from an inquisitive motive, he would return no answer to their questions, but indignantly turning back, return to the spot whence he started, and re-commence his running till he had accomplished his purpose. He never walked with a stick, or wore a great coat, and stated himself to be between sixty and seventy years of age. He sometimes continued his route as far as Barnet Hill, which he ascended in the same manner as that of Highgate. From London to Barnet is twelve miles from St. Giles's Pound, consequently this man some mornings must have walked and run twenty-eight miles before breakfast; a performance that few young men would undertake, particularly that of running from the bottom to the top of the hills without stopping.

The singularity of this practice induced several persons to enquire the cause. He answered, when they did not
impede

impede him while running, "That when he ceased to ascend the hill in that manner, the world would be no more." This gained him the appellation of the Prophet, by which name he is still remembered at Highgate.

The person in Sloane Street, with whom he lodged for several years, speaks of him as a man of unblemished reputation for honesty and sobriety, and it is generally thought his morning visit to Highgate, and running up the hill, was a penance he had imposed on himself for the folly of dissipating his property in the lottery.

Powell is by no means a singular instance of lottery infatuation, nor the only man deceived in sanguine expectations. A respectable and well known person, near Pentonville, in the year 1793, was so much elated with gaining a considerable sum by insurance, that he gave a public breakfast on the occasion, at White Conduit House. But the following year he was stripped of all that he possessed, by that destructive practice. It was confidently asserted he had dissipated no less a sum in this manner than 15,000*l.* and was reduced to the necessity of working as a day labourer on the roads for support. He died of a broken heart two years after his loss, in Islington workhouse.



EXTRAORDINARY EQUESTRIAN PERFORMANCE,

WE are informed by Drake, in his History of York, that in the year 1606, John Leyton, groom to King James I. rode between London and York in one day, for six days together. He set out from Aldersgate on the 20th of May, and performed the journey each day before it was dark. The days at that time of the year are about sixteen hours long, so that he rode upwards of twelve miles an hour for sixteen hours each day, for six days together.

SINGULAR

SINGULAR CHARACTER.

ON the 12th of July, 1804, died, aged eighty-two, Henry Lee Warner, Esq. of Walsingham Abbey in Norfolk, the lineal descendant and representative of the eminent John Warner, formerly bishop of Rochester, whose estates he possessed, as well as those of Sir James Howe, Bart. of Berwick, Wilts; and of Henry Lee, Esq. of Dane John, in Kent. He was the polite scholar, the complete gentleman, and the sincere friend; and although, from a series of ill health, and a natural love of retirement, he early withdrew from filling those public stations, in which, with his ability, fortune, and integrity, he would have made a very distinguished figure, yet in private life he was universally respected for his steady adherence to the rules of justice and moderation, and his constant practice of those leading duties of the Christian—humanity and benevolence. Of the various traits which marked the character of this extraordinary but truly amiable man, his mode of life, and his conduct towards those who abused his confidence and generosity, were the most remarkable. With him the common distribution of time was completely reversed, and night was literally turned into day. His time of rising was always late in the evening, he generally breakfasted at midnight, and dined at four or five in the morning. The dress, in which it was his custom to appear, was precisely that of the English gentleman of the last age; a gold laced coat and waistcoat, with deep slash worked sleeves, and richly embossed buttons, a deep chitterlin of rich yellow lace, curve-toed shoes, and oblong buckles. From a principle of lenity and forbearance, and an extreme tenderness of disposition, he permitted the most injurious depredations to be committed on his property with impunity; and notwithstanding

notwithstanding the system of depredation was carried to such a height, as almost to render his extensive woods, and even young plantations, a scene of desolation, yet when during his walk by midnight any of the offenders were perceived by him, he would mildly exclaim, "Take care how you get down that tree, or you may hurt yourself."

The character of this gentleman, as drawn by Mr. Pratt, in his gleanings in England, we understand from various testimony, is certainly not exaggerated. "At the Abbey here resides," says the above writer, "a gentleman in the possession of a once finely wooded domain, of great politeness and urbanity, much reading, of sound understanding, who, nevertheless, has allowed almost every tree which his domain had to boast, to be deliberately cut down, and carried away, without so much as making any manner of enquiry after the offenders, or entering into any remonstrance as to their past, present, or future depredations, though this went to the loss of 20,000*l*. I suppose," says Mr. Pratt, "you would think I must be fibbing, were I to inform you that whoever has a mind to it goes into his stable, saddles or harnesses a horse, and rides, or ploughs with him, brings him home at night, or keeps him a week or a fortnight together, without so much as a question being asked by the squire; and what is worse, they not only steal wheat, barley, and other grain, from the field where it is sheaved, to save them the trouble of cutting it, but they are wicked enough to cut off the corn-ears, by whole acres, before they are ripe."

Mr. Warner, with all his peculiarities, was endowed with a thousand qualities which do honour to the heart of man; and with all his shades of character, in which, however, there was no mixture of vice or immorality, he will long be remembered as a man of very tender feelings,
a scholar,

a scholar, and a gentleman. Notwithstanding all the deep drawbacks upon his property, Mr. Warner died extremely rich. He never went to church; but the report of his having been of the Roman Catholic religion has been contradicted by the authority of his friends.

His remains were conveyed in a hearse from his venerable mansion to the parish church for interment, preceded by a number of his tenants on horseback, and followed by several of the most distinguished gentlemen in the neighbourhood in their carriages, and by a great concourse of spectators. The pall was supported by Henry Styleman, Esq. high sheriff of the county, Sir George Chadd, Bart. Sir Jacob Astley, Bart. T. W. Coke, Esq. Henry Jodrell, Esq. and the Rev. W. Astley. The chief mourners were Mr. Woodward, one of Mr. Warner's nephews, and Dr. Bragge of Lynn, to whom the principal part of his extensive property is bequeathed.



Singular Account of some WHITE SPARROWS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE WONDERFUL AND SCIENTIFIC
MUSEUM.

SIR,

IN Saint George's Fields, and its neighbourhood, white sparrows are frequently seen; they are very shy; various but ineffectual attempts having been made to take them alive.

I have often seen the
sparrow; when flying t y til y of
white, but a nearer view of t m u e gr d
vers a very small portion of d y l
the covert of the wings: t y e r a
ance during the last half year. I
kind of white sparrows (pro I
mentioned) in y

VOL. II.

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vicinity. I have been informed that the like were seen two or three years since in Devonshire, and some other counties.

Thinking this communication adapted to your pleasing and curious publication, I have given you this brief account, which may tend to induce your ornithological readers to make some critical, useful, and agreeable enquiries; for undoubtedly an investigation relative to this apparently new species of sparrows, will gratify every lover of natural history.

I am, Sir,

Your humble servant,

Sept. 2, 1804.

N. COLLYER,

19, Garden Row, near West Square,
St. George's Fields.

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*Anecdotes of JOSEPH CAPPER, Esq. an extraordinary  
Character.*

ON Thursday, September 6, at half past twelve o'clock, died Joseph Capper, Esq. many years an inmate at the Horns, Kennington.

He was born in Cheshire, of humble parents; his family being numerous, he came to London at an early age, to shift for himself, as he used to say, and was bound apprentice to a grocer. Mr. Capper soon manifested great quickness and industry, and proved a most valuable servant to his master. It was one of the chief boasts of his life, that he had gained the confidence of his employer, and never betrayed it.

Being of an enterprising spirit, Mr. Capper commenced business as soon as he was out of his apprenticeship, in the neighbourhood of Rosemary-lane. His old master was his only friend, and recommended him so strongly to the dealers in his line, that credit to a very large amount was given him. In proportion as he became successful,

successful, he embarked in various speculations, but in none was so fortunate as in the funds. He at length amassed a sum sufficient to decline all business whatever.

Mr. Capper therefore resolved to retire from the bustle of life. This best suited his disposition; for although he possessed many amiable qualities, yet he was the most tyrannical and overbearing man living, and never seemed so happy as when placed by the side of a churlish companion. For several days he walked about the vicinity of London, searching for lodgings, without being able to please himself. Being one day much fatigued, he called at the Horns, at Kennington, took a chop and spent the day, and asked for a bed in his usual blunt manner, when he was answered in the same churlish style by the landlord, that he could not have one. Mr. Capper was resolved to stop, if he could, all his life, to plague the *growling fellow*, and refused to retire. After some altercation, however, he was accommodated with a bed, and never slept out of it for twenty-five years. During that time he made no agreement for lodging or eating, but wished to be considered a customer only for the day. For many years he talked about quitting this residence the next day. His manner of living was so methodical, that he would not drink his tea out of any other than a favourite cup. He was equally particular with respect to his knives and forks, plates, &c. In winter and summer he rose at the same hour, and when the mornings were dark, he was so accustomed to the house, that he walked about the apartments without the assistance of any light. At breakfast he arranged, in a peculiar way, the paraphernalia of the tea-table, but first of all he would read the news-papers. At dinner he also observed a general rule, and invariably drank his pint of wine. His supper was uniformly a gill of rum, with sugar, lemon-peel, and porter, mixed together; the latter he

saved from the pint he had at dinner. From this economical plan he never deviated. His bill for a fortnight amounted regularly to 4l. 18s. He called himself the Champion of Government, and his greatest glory was certainly his Country and King. He joined in all subscriptions which tended to the aid of Government. He was exceedingly choleric, and nothing raised his anger so soon as declaiming against the British Constitution. In the parlour he kept his favourite chair, and there he would often amuse himself with satirising the customers or the landlord, if he could make his jokes tell better. It was his maxim never to join in general conversation, but to interrupt it whenever he could say any thing ill-natured. Mr. Capper's conduct to his relations was exceedingly capricious; he never would see any of them. As they were chiefly in indigent circumstances, he had frequent applications from them to borrow money. "Are they industrious?" he would enquire; when being answered in the affirmative, he would add, "Tell them I have been deceived already, and never will advance a sixpence by way of loan, but I will give them the sum they want; and if ever I hear they make known the circumstance, I will cut them off with a shilling."

Soon after Mr. Townsend became landlord of the Horns, he had an opportunity of making a few good ready money purchases, and applied to the old man for a temporary loan:—"I wish," said he, "to serve you, Townsend; you seem an industrious fellow; but how is it to be done, Mr. Townsend? I have sworn never to lend, I must therefore give it thee;" which he accordingly did the following day. Mr. Townsend proved grateful for this mark of liberality, and never ceased to administer to him every comfort the house would afford; and what was, perhaps, more gratifying to the old man, he indulged him in his eccentricities.

Mr.

Mr. Capper was elected steward of the parlour fire, and if any persons were daring enough to put a poker in it without his permission, they stood a fair chance of feeling the weight of his cane. In summer time, a favourite diversion of his was killing flies in the parlour with his cane: but as he was sensible of the ill opinion this would produce among the by-standers, he would with great ingenuity introduce a story about the rascality of all Frenchmen, "whom," says he, "I hate and detest, and would knock down just the same as these flies." This was the signal for attack, and presently the killed and wounded were scattered about in all quarters of the room.

This truly eccentric character lived to the age of seventy-seven, in excellent health, and it was not until the Tuesday morning before his decease that a visible alteration was perceived in him. Having risen at an earlier period than usual, he was observed to walk about the house, exceedingly agitated and convulsed. Mr. Townsend pressed him to suffer medical assistance to be sent for, which Mr. Capper then, and at all times, had a great aversion to. He asked for a pen and ink, evinced great anxiety to write, but could not. Mr. Townsend, apprehending his dissolution nigh, endeavoured, but in vain, to get permission to send for Mr. Capper's relations, and tried to obtain their address for that purpose. He refused, saying that he should be better. On the second day, seeing no hopes of recovery, Mr. Townsend called in four respectable gentlemen of the neighbourhood, and had seals put upon all Mr. Capper's property. One of the four gentlemen recollected the address of Mr. Capper's two nephews, of the name of Dutton, who were immediately sent for. They resided in the neighbourhood of Rosemary-lane.

As soon as the old gentleman's dissolution had taken place,

place, his desks, trunks, and boxes were opened by the Messrs. Duttons and their lawyer; when they found 100l. in Bank notes, a few guineas, a great many government securities, and a will; which the parties present proceeded to read. It was curiously worded, and made on the back of a sheet of bankers checks. It was dated five years back, and the bulk of his property, which was then upwards of 30,000l. he left equally amongst his poor relations. The two nephews were nominated executors, and were bequeathed between them 8,000l. in the 3 per cents. What has become of all the property which has been accumulating since the will was made, does not appear. From Mr. Capper's declaration in his life-time, there was reason to suppose he had made another will, as the one found did not appear to be witnessed.

The remains of the old gentleman were to be deposited in Aldgate church-yard, where his deceased sister is likewise laid.

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Description of some remarkable OAKS, now standing in Welbeck-park in the County of Nottingham, the seat of his Grace the Duke of Portland.

THE GREEN DALE OAK is said to be upwards of 700 years old; and from its appearance there is every reason to suppose it has attained to that age at least. The circumference of the trunk in the thickest part is 35 feet 10 inches; the height of the passage or arch-way through the body of the tree 10 feet 3 inches; the width about the middle 6 feet 3 inches; through which it is said a coach and horses have been driven; and the height to the top branch 54 feet. This aged decrepid tree is propped, in some places capped with lead, and in others barred to hold its limbs together; only one solitary branch shews signs of life, it has been for centuries expiring; and now seemingly in its last stage of declining years,

years, braves the storms and tempests of each revolving winter: while the winds of heaven blow down tottering edifices of stone, and tear up by the roots many a lofty tree, this stands firmly rooted on the propitious soil that gave it birth. The Countess of Oxford, grandmother of the present Duke, had several cabinets made of the branches, and ornamented with inlaid representations of the oak, with the following inscriptions:

*" Sæpe, sub hac Dryades festas duxere choeras;
Sæpe etiam manibus nexis ex ordine trunci
Circuire modum mensuraque roboris ulnas
Quinque ter implebat, nec non et cætera tanto
Silva sub hac, sylva quanto jacet herba sub omni."*

OV. MET.

*" Where all the woodland nymphs their revels play'd,
And footed sportive rings around its shade;
Not fifteen cubits could encompass round
The ample trunk on consecrated ground;
As much its height the other trees exceeds,
As they o'ertop the grass and humbler weeds."*

*" Lo the oak that hath so long a nourishing.
Pro the time that it ginneth first to spring,
And hath so long a life as we may see,
Yet at the last wasted is the tree."*

CHAUCER.

The DUKE'S WALKING STICK, so called from its height and straightness. Its height to the top is 111 feet 6 inches, solid content 440 feet, and it is calculated to weigh 11 tons. It may be doubted whether this admirable tree can be matched by any other in the kingdom.

The two PORTERS, received that appellation from there having been a gate between them. The height of one is 98 feet, the other 88; circumference of the former at bottom 38 feet, the latter 34.

The SEVEN SISTERS is so called from its having seven stems or trunks issuing out of one stool in a perpendicular direction. Its height is 88 feet, and its circumference at the bottom 30 feet.

Not

Not far from the latter is a tree whose body is hollow from the bottom to the top, and is only three inches thick, where the bark has been stripped off. In this tree the Duke's game-keeper conceals himself when he shoots the deer, and there are small apertures for his gun. Its circumference near the ground is 20 feet 9 inches. It is supposed to be nearly 300 years old. Setting aside its hollow trunk, it has every appearance of a young flourishing tree.

An ash grows out at the bottom of a large oak, to which it adheres to the height of 6 feet; it there separates, and leaves its companion for a space of nearly 3 feet in height, here, as if unwilling to be disunited, it stretches out an arm to coalesce again with the fostering oak.

The PARLIAMENT OAK, about 5 miles south-east of Welbeck, is very old, and so called by the common people from an idea that a parliament was once held under it; but there is not any good authority for this tradition. It is however certain that a parliament was held by Edward I. at Clipstone palace, the ruins of which are now to be seen, not a mile and a half from the oak, which stands in Clipstone Park, Nottinghamshire.

There is about 5 miles from Welbeck, on Sherwood Forest, a beautiful wood, consisting of above ten thousand old oaks. On the north side of the great riding, is a most curious ancient oak, which before the depredations made by time might almost have vied with the celebrated Cawthorpe oak, for size. Its circumference near the ground is 34 feet 4 inches. The inside is decayed and hollowed out by age. The aperture with the assistance of the axe, might be made wide enough to admit a carriage. This tree is thought to be nearly 600 years old.

In August 1801, was growing on the estate of Arthur Bush Baker, Esq. of Glyn Cetriog, near Chirk-castle, in the

the County of Denbigh, an oak tree, that measured as follows:

	Feet.
The length to the crown	23
The Circumference at bottom two feet from the ground	51
Ditto in the middle	52

Making a total of no less than 1472 cubical feet, which at 5s. per foot, the common trade price; amounts to the sum of 368l.

BODY OF A MAN DISCOVERED UNDER GROUND IN AN ERECT POSTURE.

ON the 20th of August 1778, as some labourers were cutting turf in a bog near Empor Lodge, in the county of Westmeath, Ireland, they found at the depth of 18 feet the body of a very tall man, in an erect posture, where, in all probability, it had been for many centuries. Every part was perfect. His skin was in colour and consistence, like a half tanned calf skin; and almost impenetrable; not the smallest remains of clothes were found, nor could any mark of violence be discovered; from this circumstance it was conjectured, that he was drowned at a time when the bog was a quagmire, and, having sunk to the gravel, remained in that erect posture he was found in. The quagmire in the course of many centuries, became consolidated into a bog, and thus preserved the body more perfectly than if it was embalmed.

EXTRAORDINARY TINKER:

A short time since died, at Hornchurch, in Essex, Edmund Nokes, aged 66, by trade a tinker, which he followed assiduously till about six weeks before his death. His apartments exhibited symptoms of the most abject poverty; though he was found to possess property to the amount of five or six thousand pounds. He had a wife and several children, which he brought up in the most

parsimonious manner, often feeding them on gains and offal of meat, which he purchased at reduced prices. He was no less remarkable in person and dress; for in order to save the expense of shaving, he would encourage the dirt to gather on his face, to hide in some measure the length of his beard. He never suffered his shirt to be washed in water; but after wearing it till it became intolerably black, he used to wash it in urine, to save the expense of soap. It would have puzzled the wisest philosopher to make out the original colour of his coat, which time had transformed into a jacket, so covered was it with threads and patches of different colours.

The interest of the money, together with all he could heap up from his penurious mode of living, he used to deposit in a bag, which bag was covered up in a tin pot, and then conveyed to a brick kitchen; one of the bricks was taken up, and a hole made just large enough to hold the pot; the brick was then carefully marked, and a tally kept behind the door of the sum deposited. One day his wife discovered this hoard, and resolving to profit by the discovery, took from the pot one out of fifteen guineas that were then placed there. Her husband soon discovered the trick, for when he came to count his money, and finding it not agree with the tally behind the door, which his wife did not know of, he taxed her with it, and to the day of his death, even on his death bed, he never spoke to her without adding *Thief* to every expression.

In his younger days, he used at the death of any of his children, to have a little deal box made to put them in, and without undergoing the solemn regular funeral, he would take them to the place appropriated for their reception.

A short time before his death, which he evidently fore-

tened by the daily use of nearly a quart of spirits, he gave strict charge that his coffin should not have a nail in it, which was actually the case, the lid being fastened with hinges made of cord; there was no plate on the coffin, but barely the initials E. N. cut out of the lid. His shroud was made of a pound of wool; the coffin was covered with a sheet instead of a pall, and was carried by six men, to whom he left half-a-crown; and at his particular desire, not one who followed him to the grave wore mourning; but on the contrary each of the mourners seemed to try whose dress should be the most striking, the undertaker even being habited in a blue coat and scarlet waistcoat. He died without a will, and his fortune was equally divided between his wife and family.

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*Description of that extraordinary Mountain the PIKE of TENERIFFE, and Account of an Expedition to its Summit.*

IN the beginning of the month of September, 1761, at about four in the afternoon, Mr. Glas sat out on horseback, in company with the master of a ship to visit the pike. They had with them a servant, a muleteer, and a guide; and, after ascending about six miles, arrived toward sun-set at the most distant habitation from the sea, which is in a hollow: here finding an aqueduct of open troughs, that convey water down from the head of the hollow, their servants watered the cattle, and filled some small barrels to serve them in their expedition. The gentlemen alighted, and walking into the hollow, found it very pleasant, abounding with many trees that sent forth an odoriferous smell; and near the houses were some fields of maize, or Indian corn.

Mounting again, they travelled for some time up a steep road, and reached the woods and clouds just as it grew dark. They could not miss their way, the road being bounded on both sides with trees or bushes, which

were chiefly laurel, savine, and brush-wood. Having travelled about a mile, they came to the upper edge of the wood, above the clouds, where alighting, they made a fire, and supped; soon after which they lay down to sleep under the bushes.

About half an hour after ten, the moon shining bright, they mounted again, travelling slowly two hours, through an exceeding bad road, resembling the ruins of some stone buildings, scattered over the fields. After they had got out of this road, they came upon small light pumice-stone, like shingle; upon which they rode at a pretty good pace for near an hour. The air now began to be very sharp, cold, and piercing. Their guide advised them to alight here, as the place was convenient, and rest till four or five in the morning. To this they agreed, and entered a cave, the mouth of which was built up to a man's height, to exclude the cold. Here they found some dry withered retamas, which was the only shrub or vegetable; with these they made a great fire, and then fell asleep; but were soon awaked by an itching occasioned by a cold thin air, want of comfortable lodgment, and sleeping in their clothes; but although they lay so near the fire that one side was almost scorched, yet the other was benumbed with cold.

At about five in the morning they mounted again, and travelled slowly about a mile; for the road was rather too steep for travelling quick on horseback, and their beasts were become fatigued. At last they came among some great loose rocks, where was a kind of cottage built of loose stones, called *La Estancia de los Ingleses*, or the English baiting-place, probably from some of the English resting here on their way to visit the pike; for none take that journey but foreigners, and some poor people who earn their bread by gathering brimstone. Here they again alighted, the remainder of their way

being too steep for riding, and left the servant to look after the horses, while they proceeded on their journey. They walked hard to get themselves a heat, but were soon fatigued by the steepness of the road, which was loose and sandy. On their reaching the top of this hill, they came to a prodigious number of large and loose rocks, or stones, whose surfaces were flat, and each of them on a medium about ten feet every way. This road was less steep than the other; but they were obliged to make many circuits to avoid the rocks.

Here is the famous cave of *Teyde*, which is surrounded, or rather buried, on all sides by large volcanic rocks, which the Spaniards call *mal-payses*. The cave is about fifteen feet wide at the entrance, but its extremity Dr. Heberden says he could not discover. Here is the grand reservoir of snow, whence these islanders are supplied, when their common reservoirs, which furnish snow for cooling their liquors, fail them. M. Glas and his company entered it. They found the water so excessively cold that it could not be drank. After travelling about a quarter or half a mile upon the great stones, they reached the bottom of the real pike or sugar-loaf, which is exceeding steep, and the difficulty of ascending was increased, and rendered more fatiguing, by the ground being loose, and giving way under their feet; for though this eminence is not above half a mile in height, they were obliged to stop and take breath near thirty times; and when they at last reached the top, being quite spent with fatigue, they lay about a quarter of an hour to rest themselves and recover their breath.

The top of the pike is about an hundred and forty yards in length, and an hundred and ten in breadth. It is hollow, and shaped like a bell with the mouth upward, says Mr. Glas. Dr. Heberden describes it as resembling a truncated cone with its base uppermost. These two travellers differ widely as to the depth of the crater, which

which the natives call *caldera*, the first calling it forty yards to the bottom, the latter saying it is about twelve or fifteen feet deep. This *caldera* or *cauldron* is nearly circular, its diameter about forty fathom. The ground is very hot, and from near twenty spiracula, as from so many chimnies, a smoke or vapour arises, which is of a strong sulphureous smell. The whole soil seemed mixed or powdered with brimstone, which formed a beautifully coloured surface. There is one of the rocks which forms a kind of vault, or niche, against which the vapours condensing, produce what the inhabitants call *azufre de gota*, or *drop-brimstone*. On observing some spots of earth, or soft clay, Mr. Glas's company tried the heat with their fingers, but could not thrust them in farther than half an inch, for the deeper they penetrated the hotter they felt it. They then took their guide's staff, and thrust it about three inches deep into a hole or porous substance, where the smoke seemed thickest, and having held it there about a minute, drew it out, and found it burned to charcoal.

From this spot the clouds beneath them, which were at a great distance, made a very extraordinary appearance: they seemed like the ocean, only the surface was not quite so blue and smooth, but had the resemblance of white wool; and where this cloudy ocean, as it may be called, touched the mountain, it seemed to foam like billows breaking on the shore. When they ascended through the clouds it was dark; but when they afterward mounted again, between ten and eleven o'clock, and the moon shone bright, the clouds were then below them, and about a mile distant. They then mistook them for the ocean, and wondered to see it so near, nor did they discover their mistake till the sun arose. When in descending from the pike, they passed through the clouds, they appeared as a thick fog or mist, resembling those frequently seen in England: all the trees of the wood, and their clothes, were wet with them.

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